

one. They have had overflows in there and they are housed in different units. Number two, the existing space was built in the fifties. It does not meet accreditation standards with regards emergency release procedures. Right now there is a situation where they have a mechanical system for emergency relief in the case of a fire or whatever emergency would have to get out quickly, evacuate the facilities and the back-up system consists of a cutting torch to cut the doors out if for some reason the original system would fail and that has been criticized by the accreditation people. And, finally, with the accreditation people, that I can remember right now, the size per square foot of this existing unit is below the accreditation standards. They are looking for about 80 square feet, I think, per cell area. The existing, I think, is around 63 and I believe the new facility is talking about 83, 84 square feet per unit. So it's an effort to try to expand and upgrade and actually and contrary to what Senator...not contrary to what Senator Chambers has said but in spite of what Senator Chambers has said, it's an effort, I believe, to try to meet our existing population problems, our almost certain...in fact, I will say certain growth in populations and to try to do in a more modern, more humane way. I don't believe that the...that the lack of building this space will in any way further Senator Chambers' goals, notwithstanding his very excellent points. I would like to take just a moment, if I may, to talk about the items that are of main interest to Senator Chambers and that is that we have, as a committee, and the Department of Corrections has tried to work towards rehabilitation programs. I was able, Senator Chambers, to grab some numbers for you on your previous question. I will be a little behind the vote but we do have educational programs going on. Senator Chambers asked for total operations at York. That's 1,800,000. We have educational programs totaling about 1,300,000 with the technical community colleges and there are several programs going on at York that I could talk with you if you are still interested in it. We have some information on that. Bottom line, it's very difficult to stand up and say I want to spend a lot of money for building new prisons but I think it's just inescapable, pardon the pun, that the...that the population has grown since the fifties. The population is growing. It's growing at an average rate of about a 116 per year and there is just absolutely no evidence of that decreasing. We would like to see it. I am as interested as Senator Chambers is in providing alternatives. Regardless of the alternatives, regardless of other facilities, these facilities need to be built, in my estimation, to stay us from a