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LB 814

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But you want to spend this money now to build a new hole?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: I believe that would be regardless of the alternative placements.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Hannibal, do you feel that, from the information you have, that the overcrowding that exists at the pen is because they have a super abundance of people who need to be placed in the hole and they've got no place to them and that's why there is overcrowding?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: As I understand it, Senator Chambers, the people that are placed in the adjustment center or the control unit or the hole, whichever, I think he used all three terms in the hearing, are of three categories, some that are there because of administrative violation of rules; some that are there because of their...I believe the term was predatory conduct among the inmates, and some are placed there for protective custody for short periods of time. And, as was explained to us, and I believe to you, in a position paper, that there is need for space additional to the 36 units that are there already because they already have higher populations than that but just as importantly to the additional space there is need for safer and more humane space.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Hannibal, I heard what Mr. Gunter said and he could tell that I wasn't buying what he said and he knows I don't buy it, but he knows that the Appropriations Committee did buy it because they don't spend that much time dealing directly with the inmates or the problems generated by the way the prison is operated. But here's the question I wanted to ask you. Is there overcrowding in addition to what you say exists because they don't have enough room in the hole to put the people who need to go there?

SENATOR HANNIBAL: It's my understanding that the 36-bed unit is full, it remains full and that they have overflow inmates that are housed at...in a temporary facility at the Lincoln Correctional Center.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So when you build this facility and you have 44 spaces in addition to what you have now, are you telling us that there...that the institution is overcrowded by 44 people at