

SENATOR CHAMBERS: In 1985, Michigan and Illinois undertook ambitious prison building programs. Michigan appropriated \$900 million, that's what I said, to build 28 prisons, and they're finding out that the overcrowding has not been alleviated and they've finally reached the conclusion that they cannot build their way out of this problem. They have reached the conclusion that the World-Herald, in an editorial in that packet that I gave you, was forced to conclude--that there are sociological underpinnings to these problems that must be addressed and even though the President has stressed building more prisons, the World-Herald had to acknowledge that is not the way. The Executive Director of the OHA, who is receiving rave notices for the way he wants to deal with cleaning up drugs in the housing projects, states at the end of an article that I included for your perusal that putting people in jail is not going to solve the problem, punishment is not going to deal with it. So before the Legislature undertakes an ambitious appropriation of millions of dollars...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ..we need to have a better justification than there is.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Warner, discussion, followed by Senator Scofield.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment to take out the construction funds for the two projects. Like all of us, as we have looked at this issue and certainly impart some of Senator Chambers' comments just now, kind of raises the question, at least it does in my mind, can you control sentences by...and what the court system does by the space available? Now it's a long-standing argument that they're going to fill up whatever facilities there are and, to some extent, I suspect that that is true. But we're faced with a situation in Nebraska currently that even by the addition of the space that is proposed with the two projects, that even at the time when those projects are completed, July 1 of 1991, we would still be at the 134 percent capacity, far in excess. And if we do nothing that is proposed we'd be at 151 percent capacity, rate of capacity, which inevitably, in my opinion, is going to lead to far more problems. Yes, the committee has an amendment that will come up a little bit later, Senator Scofield will probably discuss in more detail, that does