

now 36 states under court order for overcrowding. Based on the projections, we would be over the 150 percent with no construction, and that seems to be the figure where you can anticipate something will happen. I deplore the issue of race as a base for length and type of sentence, as we all ought to and I'm sure all do, and we need to do those things that...within the judicial system that will correct that. But the final issue is that even if the construction is done, the problem does not go away. It just reduces that percentage of overcrowding based on current estimates to 134 percent. The study is going to have to develop some alternatives or else we'll continue to construct facilities. I think we need these two facilities: one, because of great deficiencies in the building itself, and the other to help to relieve the overcrowding; and then secondly, we need this because this is a very minimum, it seems to me, that we need to be concerned for housing and yet we will have to find other ways to help relieve the problem in the future other than just building more prisons at a later date.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Just briefly, Mr. President and members, I will not repeat the things that Senator Warner said. It's obviously unnecessary. But I guess the one final point that I want to make on this is, as I indicated earlier, I don't see an alternative here at this point and then the reason I'm voting to support this now is not to build prisons today so much as it is to avoid building more of them in 1995. It looks to me like the trends that are out there that we're looking at that if we don't...if we don't do this today and also look at the kinds of alternatives that Senator Chambers and others are proposing and, in addition to that, I can't miss a chance to put in a plug for let's do some more preventive work on the front end of kids that are most likely to end up in a prison situation some day, and I think we can identify those kids and I think we can do a lot more for them than we've done to date. But for right now, it seems to me again there's no alternative to doing what we're doing now but I think if we take this study seriously, take some of these other preventive measures seriously, I would hope that whoever is here in 1995 doesn't have to stand up and advocate building more prisons. That, to me, is the most positive thing that I can propose at this point to overall what isn't a very pleasant task for any of us to accomplish. Thank you.