

money down for the helicopter, you have to wait until it's delivered when you would probably pay for the rest of it. But if you believe in this sort of thing, then you ought to do it. I want to say one more thing. We're going to spend \$8.5 million for new capital construction for prisons. We're going to spend I think \$18,000 a year to keep people in the prisons. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the use of proper equipment, proper law enforcement equipment, the proper personnel, can keep people out of prison. Isn't it a lot better to keep them out of prison and not have to expend that money on incarceration and not even thinking about the loss of the human being to society? Ladies and gentlemen, just look at it as a purely economic situation, 8.5 million for new facilities, 18,000 bucks a year to keep them in there, just money. Well, we're going to be under court order, they said. It's too bad, as I said the other day, that the court can't order us to properly fund law enforcement in an effort to deter crime. That would be, I believe, the wisest investment we could make. I would suggest that the helicopter is a good investment. I would suggest that it is a serious situation when we allow ourselves to be deluded into thinking that an 11-year-old piece of equipment is adequate for the Highway Patrol to carry out their functions. I would ask that you support the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Is there discussion on the Schmit amendment? Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have no argument about keeping the equipment up. In fact, I always get annoyed when we talk about replacement of aircraft that it becomes a big political issue that the state is replacing an aircraft. In this particular case, the...what is accurate, as indicated by Senator Schmit, is that there is one helicopter currently in the patrol which is 11 years old. I think there is around 41,000 appropriated this session for overhauling that engine. What the amendment does is provide, as he indicated, a million dollars for, I believe they are seven-passenger, at least what they were looking at, type of helicopter. Senator Schmit did have a bill introduced, it was LB 1223, which brought the issue to us. As I recall, it was not in the patrol's request for this time and, as was indicated, there is a waiting list for this type of equipment that runs a couple of years, at least, from the time that it can be bought. I think the reasons which we did not put out the bill was probably beings of a number of items, one is the issue of