

needed construction of facilities in the State of Nebraska without jeopardizing the Governor's philosophical plan that these monies should be reserved for prisons. And I say this, you have to understand, that right now on our reaffirmation list we are, in this biennium there are 430 prison beds approved for construction in 19...that we actually approved last year, 430 beds that will be completed by the Fall of 1992. Those are going on and going up right now and we're paying for them right now, and these are basically three things: an 80-bed maximum security housing unit at the Penitentiary at the cost of 3 million dollars; a 200-bed minimum security housing unit in Lincoln at the cost of 4.3 million dollars; and a 150-bed medium security housing unit at the Omaha Correctional Center, projected cost is 3.9 million dollars. Total all those up and you can see that is the amount of money that we are already spending this biennium in prison construction. Now if, indeed, for whatever reason in the next two years probably, the state would come under the decision that we do indeed have to build a stand alone prison in the State of Nebraska, that's not something that's going to pop up like a dandelion overnight. You're talking about building a whole new stand alone prison. The planning time for that is certainly quite lengthy. That's something we need to decide, need to do in '92 or '93, but the planning money is something we probably ought to be...begin to be construction or start appropriating money towards till '93, '94, or to even '95. You have to understand that 760 only commits the 4 cent lapse that expires this biennium, and then there are some additional lapses that actually expire in the second year of the next biennium. We only use up those lapses up through the next two bienniums. Think it's important to note that after 760 runs its course, the money is spent on these much needed facilities, that, given present trends, in the next biennium we will have totally unearmarked probably about 8 cents worth of cigarette, 7, 8 cents worth of cigarette tax that's projected to bring in 9.4 million dollars a year. So if indeed a prison, we would decide that we're going to build a 40 million dollar stand alone prison with some planning money I guess we could come up with, certainly the ability to bond against those future funds would certainly be there and at the rate of, you know, 9 to 10 million dollars a year you certainly would have the financial backing to do that. And so it was the committee's concern that we just philosophically, disagree with the Governor, you do not need to lock this money up to build it for prisons. Certainly my concern is that if you ever say this money is for prisons, that's where it's going to go. What we