

didn't think Senator Pedersen was going to bring his amendment to a vote. I thought he was going to be making a point on privatization of prisons and it's a point that I'm glad he made and brought up. But apparently he is going to bring this to a vote so I have to explain a couple of things. When we passed LB 988, the juvenile justice bill the last time we met as a body, we had in it funds for a secure youth facility and we also had wordage that was put on as an amendment on the floor that it would be sited within a city of the metropolitan class, obviously, i.e., inside...inside Omaha. Senator Pedersen is correct. There's been a lot of frustration. Certainly, I have been very frustrated on the lack of movement on the finding of a site. My feeling at this point either they can't find a site that's suitable or they don't want the secure facility because those sites that are suitable they...they're in residential areas and so on. But, nonetheless, the law still is there. What the Appropriations Committee did is, in my opinion, a wise thing of putting the 1.2 million for site acquisition because I do know that the Governor has sent very strong language messages to the administrations within the government of Omaha asking for them to expedite as fast as possible a site selection of their choice that would be doable. And if they certainly can't, we'll be offering an amendment to change it from within a city of the metropolitan class to in or near a city of the metropolitan class. But, assuming for a minute that in the next few months they will be able to find a site, we will not be able to proceed with the planning and the beginning of that site if we don't have any dollars in the budget for site acquisition and development. And by cutting it down to 600,000, all we're doing if they find the site is delaying what we can do and it would probably, at least in my opinion, delay the actual construction of the facility. And if that's what the Legislature wishes to do, that's fine. My sense is it may even cost more than 1.2 but it is 1.2 in the budget. There is those dollars there for the site acquisition and the development of that site once it...once it is chosen. I think the dollars need to be there. If they're not there, we simply have to come back next year, if they find the site, then we will put the dollars in, then they will be able to move and will be behind at least a year, if not more, on the construction. My sense is the body last year wanted to have the site up as soon as it was practical and feasible. It's a 75-bed secure facility. There may, obviously, have to be more. Senator Cudaback was wondering, you know, is this, the 75 beds is all, I would like to remind the body that we assume that there might have to be more but we did not want to build it