

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: There's renovations and things like that, as an addition to the Norfolk Veterans Home, and some things like that that we need to move along. Not that it's a...not that it's an emergency but a year's delay would be serious.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I understand and I accept that. I accept it. There is no way with what Senator Wehrbein just told me that I would try to stop this bill. But I will do everything I can to stop Senator Pedersen's amendment. And if Senator Pedersen's amendment attaches itself to this bill and this bill becomes the host and the only way to slay the parasite is, unfortunately, to slay the host, that's what I will have to try to do, knowing that I will not be successful. But we'll have the opportunity to discuss a lot of issues and I am prepared to do that. Some things are more important than others. Some things should be given a higher priority. As Senator Witek pointed out, we went through this argument last year and we hashed it out and we pushed and pulled, we tugged and we tried to see who would prevail in terms of getting enough votes to locate this facility and it was determined that, since a majority of those likely to wind up in this facility will come from the Omaha area, it should be near that area. For once, we looked at some principles that are associated with penology. What is it that is needed to try to prevent people who run afoul of the law from doing the same thing again? If they must be locked up for punishment, that is something that has to happen. I disagree on the severity of the punishment that everybody wants to impose all the time but some punishment is necessary. I cannot deny that. So with that issue laid aside temporarily, what is going to happen to these young people after they are locked up? If all that is going to happen is to lock them up, take them a great way from their home, their friends and the people who might be in a position to help prevent them from repeating the offense, then we have aggravated a problem. And here comes Senator Pedersen. I want to ask him a question if I have time. Madam President, how much time do I have?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Two and a half minutes, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Senator Pedersen ambling should be able to get to his desk before that. Now, Senator Pedersen, I want to ask you a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Pedersen.