

his own experience relative to this. "I can think of a situation", this is Director Clarke again relating a personal experience that he had, "I can think of a situation at a trustee dormitory when I was the administrator of that unit that almost cost me my life and then several others, and because of the open dormitory setting were not able to confine the problem which started between two individuals fighting. It erupted in about 200 individuals fighting and almost total destruction of the unit. Those are the kind of things that concern correctional administrators as you move to manage these operations." I think this is something that I hope the membership looks at very closely. I think we have some concerns. I'll have some further comments also.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Stuhr announces that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 24 students from Seward Elementary School, they're fourth graders. Their teacher is Jan Matzke. They're all sitting in the north balcony. Will you stand and be recognized, please. Welcome to the Nebraska Legislature. Senator Lindsay, your light is next, followed by Senators Wehrbein, Hillman, Wesely, Bernard-Stevens, and Maurstad.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President, members. Let me first state that I rise in support of the Wehrbein amendment, but also to state that the amendment doesn't go far enough. I have an amendment filed that would reinstate the third modular housing unit of 100-beds. The reason is that if we look at what's happening in our correctional system right now people are going...more people are going to prison for longer periods of time, paroles are down, parole revocations are up, prison population is on a steady trend upwards, and we've been doing...taking action over the past several years to do our best to continue to drive that population upwards. At some point we have to bite the bullet and do what's necessary to house those prisoners. I would concur, I think, with one of the lines that Senator Maurstad quoted Director Clarke as saying, and that is modular housing units are not going to solve our overcrowding problem, there's no question about that. When we're on a trend to reach, in December of 1998, at the State Penitentiary, 202 percent of capacity, or at DEC to reach 265 percent of capacity, or at Lincoln Correctional Center to reach 198 percent of capacity, I think it's absolutely crystal clear that adding 200 beds is not going to cut it. Adding 300 beds is not going