

ahead with the 480-bed prison unit. Finally, we came at the last minute, as at least five of us decided to go with the two at a reduced amount. It saves a little money off the 5.3 million because of the tightness of the budget after we knew the forecast, and it also does give us some interim help, albeit maybe not enough, I recognize that, and I couldn't argue too much against the three. I do want you to know that I'm going to have an amendment up there, at least to start with, for discussion purposes to build a 480-bed unit, and I've got the financing in this amendment that we're going to be discussing. And I fully intend to discuss it. My proposal for this will be to add a one-cent sales tax, starting in July of '96, until December 31 of '96, which will raise approximately \$70 million, so we can build a prison. I also want you to listen carefully...to know that what we did about three years ago, in 1993, changing the mandatory minimums has added about 281 years to our prison time. It has affected 29 percent of our population. Part of the reason we are having 900 people over capacity at this point is because of that...is part of that. Doing what most of us want to do costs money. And I'm going to try to make that point as we move forward. I don't know how many of you will be willing to vote for a tax increase to do what we should do in the prison area. In the handout you have, Senator Schimek recognized about the increase that we've done in staffing. I will call your attention to the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center, which is 201 percent over its design capacity. Is it any wonder that we need more staff out there? If you look at some of the others, we're 162 percent over, 144 percent over, 155 percent over, that's our dilemma. And I will freely admit that the 200-bed unit perhaps is only a start. That's why, once again, the committee originally thought we ought to go with a 480-bed unit. But practically speaking, I'm not sure a majority of this body is willing to move ahead with a one-cent increase in sales tax, for example, to pay for that. I really want to call your attention to the fact that these...what we are doing and with a rising social problems we are adding to our costs, and we can't hide from that. That's why we've got so much money in Juvenile. I invite you to go down the proposed expenditures at all levels and see how much of it has to do with Juvenile Services, probation, increased probation costs, increased cost of appeals, increased cost of keeping Kearney open. All of these are costs, all of these are a big share of our increased expenses, and still we are being barraged daily every day in the paper because we're spending too much money.