

there is definite security concerns relative with this type of incarceration. In California, they've built over 750 modular units since 1982. All have been replaced, we're talking 14 years later, all have been replaced with hard construction units because of the age. Now there's, you know, probably some concern relative if we're matching apples to apples and the same type of construction, but this is one of the references that has been used where they found the modular units that they built had a life span of five to ten years with the restroom facilities the first to show deterioration. So I bring some of that information to you that some of the other attempts at this have not proven to necessarily be entirely successful. The...one other comment I want to make is during his testimony Director Clarke indicated that only medium custody offenders will be assigned to these units. Now other discussion that developed, a medium offender today is the violent offender of yesteryear. All indications show that our prison population has changed and it has become more violent and has hardened-type criminals as compared to the past. So given that we're talking about medium custody, I want to make sure that people keep that in context with what we're actually talking about. I want to refer to some further statements by Director Clarke during the Appropriations hearing process where he indicated that modulars are not the long-term solution and do not address future needs. I quote, "they're a quick means of responding to an emergency situation, but it's not...it should not be seen as a wave of the future and I believe that if you were to sit in this chair, correction practitioners from the states around this country will tell you if given the choice what they think is best for the management operations in the institutions, they will tell you it's not the way of dormitories, it's not the way of modulars. Those provide additional problems for management of correctional facilities." Now I want to indicate that I respect Director Clarke immensely, and I'm not trying to compromise him. I understand he has to answer to the Governor. But I believe his testimony is pertinent and I want to make sure that everyone is aware of some of that. His answer is also a commitment to a new prison...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...and I have to agree with the Judiciary Chairman when he says that at some point we have to bite the bullet and do what it takes to address the overcrowding problem. I believe building the permanent facility is the way to address