

that problem, and I've committed to the Appropriations Committee to trying to find the funding revenue necessary. But Director Clarke says, "For too long the state of Nebraska has stood by and allowed the prison population to grow without addressing the long-term needs of the Department of Correctional Services. Building modulars today delays the inevitable construction of a new prison. The time is now to indicate a commitment for a new prison. Site selection and planning could begin using some of the funds meant for these modulars." That's what the preliminary decision of the Appropriations Committee was. As I indicated before, I believe that doing the modulars will only delay the development of that new prison that we need to do at this point in time and I believe it puts...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: ...the prisoners and the correctional officials in a very unsafe climate in which I think we need to consider.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Pedersen, your light is next followed by Senators Lynch, Pirsch, Hartnett, Crosby, Chambers, Stuhr, Wehrbein, Brown, Jensen, Janssen, Lindsay, and Maurstad.

SENATOR PEDERSEN: Madam President, members of the Legislature, just a few little things to add here because most of this has already been talked about, but I agree with Senator Maurstad. If we're going to look at something that's going to be permanent, we're going to have to look for another complete institution, and I know that is \$55 million, is what Senator Wehrbein said and that's a lot of money. But again, as has been repeated and I'll repeat it again, it's been repeated a couple of times already, if we're going to be harder on crime, we're going to have to have some place to put them. And we can't put people in jail without paying for it. You've got to build the jails. The dormitory fashion, what Senator Maurstad was talking about, is a very volatile situation to put anybody. Now I'm going to add a couple of little personal things in here so you have some understanding what's going on. Not all of this is a bunch of gang members that nobody cares about, but I know one young man that I've been visiting for some time in the state correctional center from the western part of the state in Nebraska who has parents, one of them works for the state, one