

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...to 300-bed modular units or 3, 100-bed modular units because I think that our problem if we just look at the numbers, if we just look at the numbers, our problem is that severe. Our short-term problem is that severe. I believe the 480-bed unit, the new prison that Senator Wehrbein mentioned I think is also necessary because we've done nothing about our prison population for the past several years except to increase it. I would urge that this amendment be adopted.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Lindsay. Before we proceed, I would like to announce that Senator Fisher has a guest under the north balcony, Mr Terry Loschen, Grand Island, Nebraska. Terry, would you... (recorder malfunction). Good to have you with us this morning. A number of lights on. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. A comment about Senator Lynch's earlier discussion and he certainly is accurate in that Director Clarke did in fact come before the committee on two different occasions. The testimony that I've been quoting from did not have the statements that I've been able to go through yet that Senator Lynch refers to, but they very well could have been at the other time that Director Clarke was before the committee. And I want to clear up a couple of things. First of all, these modulars won't last 30 or 40 years if used to house inmates that entire period of time. I think you can check in Texas and check in California and you'll find that out. What we're talking about and the reason why they're referred to as temporary is because it's the intent of the director that we only use these to house inmates on a temporary basis, first of all; and, secondly, that they would only house those inmates on a temporary basis. So I want to clarify that because in his testimony before us he said these units, however, could have a longer life span if they were to be used for other purposes, which is what we are hoping is going to occur. We are hoping that down the road we'll be able to acquire additional resources and move the offenders out of these units and use these units for programming as Senator Crosby indicated. Now I think some of the key words in there is he's hoping that that