

proof that just being mean spirited and warehousing is solving the problem. To the contrary, a study right in California should reveal, one funded by the federal government, reveal that for every dollar invested in prevention and treatment seven dollars are saved. That's one of the main reasons why the Appropriations Committee tried to address this from a wholistic fashion and try to provide some additional resources in the area of prevention, maybe not enough but there again more than in the past and really trying to address this juvenile issue that is out there, other testimony indicating the importance of that. In closing, I would like to share that the crime rate has fallen the last two years, both nationally and locally, even though our numbers don't show that. A quote from the Wall Street Journal dated January 22 of 1996 reads as follows: The recent dramatic drop in the crime rate has politicians making political hay. They better be quick about it. We are merely enjoying a brief lull due largely to the aging of the baby boomers before the arrival of the mother of all crime waves. This is Director Clarke speaking, the Bipartisan Council on Crime in America warns that by the year 2000 a huge increase in 14- to 17-year-old males will cause violent crime in this country to spiral out of control. These kids, far more dangerous and violent than the generation before them, will be, in the council's words, like teenage wolf packs. That's why we feel it's important to try to address that aspect of this with some prevention on the front end along with making the commitment to address our overcrowding problem that we've had, I would reiterate, for a number of years.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: So once again, to me it doesn't seem that taking the short-term approach of building some modular units that I believe the real intent for is to use for programming later, which I don't disagree with, but is certainly not the prudent way to move and that we ought to spend the dollars on prevention, make the commitment towards building the maximum security facility to house 480 prisoners and continue to work with Director Clarke on meeting his concerns that he provided in his testimony to the Appropriations Committee. I urge the rejection of the amendment.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Wehrbein.