

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members, I will be fairly brief just to make a few remarks. I handed out...the last handout that you may have gotten has to do with the estimates, the building type, the construction type that these buildings are. "Low Cost Dormitory Addition to the Nebraska State Penitentiary" is the title of it. I just wanted to call your attention so there may be some confusion. Down at the bottom where it says three buildings, three each at \$1,703,000, the proposal in this amendment is two buildings at \$1,703,000. That's why your total that we're talking about is \$3.5 million. It's two-thirds of the total cost as shown on this sheet. And I was going to make some of this my closing. Senator Maurstad did a very good job of explaining what some of the things we have done and are proposing to do in addition to simply building prisons. And so I'm going to indicate to you that I think this is a viable alternative. I take a different conclusion than he just did. I think we need to move ahead on modulars, in this case two, and I would then move again next year quickly post on doing the 480-bed unit, realizing the risk is that as soon as we build them they fill. I do not know the solutions to that. I will call your attention to our budget that he did briefly again, Senator Maurstad. We put \$1,273,000 in the Juvenile Services grants. We put \$552,000 to continue Geneva-Kearney opening. We put \$406,000 to replace Juvenile Services, to replace federal funds. We put in \$342,000, the top one, to annua'ize the funding of additional probation officers. So I think we're trying to do it all and many times that's a mistake to try to do it all. But we are trying to do some things, at least from the Appropriations Committee standpoint, to address it on all points. We even put some money in to 4-H/FFA, to youth. We've tried to do other things, textbook loan programs, a lot of things could be said, developmental disabilities aid-rate to try to take care of many facets. Admittedly, it's never enough, but we're trying. And the modular housing at this point, modular construction is an effort to try to face this. My suggestion then is to vote for the two and to resolve that you're going to have to come back and do the 480-bed. If I could be a dictator, I would do away with the modular at this point and move right into the 480-bed unit and would have started it last...yesterday. That's not to be, so I say I've come to the realization the practical approach is do two out of the three, that's my personal thought, and be ready to move on the 480-bed. Because the trends are unmistakable. They're