

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Chambers referred to me when he was talking about stinginess. And he must have a different definition of stinginess than what I do, because when you are supporting spending \$55 million instead of \$3 million I cannot see how that could fit even Senator Chambers' definition of stinginess. The Governor, yesterday, indicated that, in his photo op, out at the softball field, that the modular housing for 300 inmates, at a cost of \$5.3 million, offers the best short-term solution to prison overcrowding. He doesn't provide the long-term solution. He also goes on to indicate that he opposes the Appropriations Committee's proposal to spend \$350,000 to begin planning the new prison, indicating that there are internal resources to review previous studies of the state's long-term prison needs and consider the causes of overcrowding, alternative programs like community corrections, and long-term construction needs. I appreciate and will support the Governor's recommendation that it's not necessary to spend the \$350,000. The Appropriations Committee included it because they felt that was a good faith signal that we were in fact supportive of the building of the permanent facility that at least some of us feel is a better...or needs to be a part of the long-term approach. What concerns me is that the Governor, up to this point in time, is willing to address the short-term need, but is only looking at considering the long-term concerns that face us. It appears, in looking back at the history of this issue, for quite some time, that we've been doing a lot of considering. I think the time has come to start doing some committing. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask young Senator Maurstad a question, if I may, about stinginess.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Maurstad, will you yield?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Maurstad, would you agree that the issue before us now is this...it's about \$1.7 million that Senator Lindsay is trying to add to the budget?