

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. If Senator Lindsay would...Senator Lindsay, respond to a question?

SENATOR CROSEY: Senator Lindsay, will you yield for a question?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Senator Lindsay, with the data that we've been provided, the 300 beds would provide us with a medium capacity of 690 or 990. June of 1997, projected figures provided to us indicates a population of 1,093. So even if we build the three, we're still going to have overcrowding occur, and that doesn't take into account the additional 85 in the maximum, and the additional 72 in the minimum. So my question is, would you be agreeable to building four instead of three, so that we would at least be on a temporary basis meeting what the projection that we have before us is now?

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Maurstad, frankly, I would. If that amendment came up I'd probably vote for it. I know it's expensive. If you put up your amendment to build a prison, I would probably vote for that. I don't like to, but we have a responsibility to do it. So, to answer your question, we've got to do something and...

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Okay, thank you. Some of the problem that I also have with all of this is there was a strategic plan that was done in 1993 by an outside consultant dealing with best use renovation. Wouldn't have added a lot of beds necessarily, but would have provided a better use of maximum prison space, more control, more flexibility, which an indirect result would have been more beds would have been made available. The Legislature funded that last year, at a cost of about \$1.9 million, to recognize the concern that we have in this area, and the Governor vetoed all of that money, except for some planning dollars. And as of yet we haven't received any plans as a result of that. And I just point this out to again, as the Legislature, as recently as last year, tried to address the specific issue that's before us now, the overcrowding, tried to make better use of our prison space, and the Governor vetoed those dollars. And I...you know, it just seems to me to be amazing that we would now have before us a proposal, mid biennium, to spend 5.3 dollars (sic) on a short-term basis. I don't see the consistency there. The planning money that we