

morning fully expecting that I would be voting in favor of the third one. But the discussion has gone today that...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...that I've taken this position at this point. And I apologize if the people feel like I've misled, I certainly didn't mean to.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I just wanted to respond to Senator Bernard-Stevens' questions about the level of security. As I said yesterday, these facilities are minimum to medium. They are being located at the State Penitentiary because there is a secure perimeter there and it's hoped that with screening that the individuals who will be occupying them can be carefully selected. The penitentiary is a medium to maximum security facility. If we were looking just at numbers of beds, it would probably make more sense to locate these facilities at either the Omaha Correctional Facility or the Lincoln Correctional Facility, because those are minimum to medium security facilities. And...but I have some real concerns that we are looking at sheer numbers and not at the numbers of people at the level of security that...where the growth really is. And the growth is in the medium security area, and yet these facilities are not going to necessarily, in the best way, address medium security facilities...medium security needs, because they are open dorms, they are open bays, they are much more difficult to provide the kind of supervision that's necessary. And so there are some real serious issues around whether we have put together a solution and now we're trying to make the problem fit it; I will say this again, trying to make the problem fit the solution that we have, that's a politically expedient solution, rather than looking at what our needs really are and how we can meet those needs in the best way, in the most responsible way. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Brown. There are no further lights. Senator Lindsay, you are recognized to close on your amendment.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Madam President. To save some