

done instead of brick and mortar. And given that more of a comprehensive sort of plan to attack the problem, by reporting that to the Legislature, the Appropriations Committee, in conjunction with the...I assume the Judiciary Committee, would be enabled then to make some additional policy decisions, put them out on the floor for discussion, to try to handle what I would hope people understand is a very, very serious prison over crowding problem. So, with that, I place this option before the body and would urge that the amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER WITHEM PRESIDING

SPEAKER WITHEM: On the Lindsay amendment to the amendment, Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Wehrbein and Vrtiska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, some of the language that Senator Lindsay mentioned sounded good to me, and I didn't get a chance to read it all. But if it's going to tell us the types of things that he mentioned, such as why we have the increase in the prison population, I'm going to read it and see if it breaks down the types of people who are winding up in prison. Senator Klein and I were talking, and that's why I missed some of Senator Lindsay's comments. But I was pointing out to him that a lot of the people who are going to prison now are going on drug offenses. And I was mentioning how I've always talked about how we redefined "conduct", so that which was not criminal is now criminal; that which was a lower grade of offense is now a higher grade of offense. So you can round up these junkies, which are users, but because of the way we define these drug offenses now, and the relatively small amounts that put you across the line, they can make it appear, in law enforcement, that they are really protecting society from violent, dangerous criminals, and that's not the case at all. As a matter of fact, there was an article, not too many days ago, even that the World-Herald picked up, pointing out that there are fewer people committing crimes. There are more violent crimes being committed by some of these people. But if you don't have more people committing crimes, why do you have to build more and more jail cells? You do that because you're going to have nutty bills coming in here redefining "conduct". I was about to say, on the other issue, when I ran out of time that we will say any amount of alcohol perceptible in a young person constitutes an offense, if that young person is driving a car, no impairment, nothing, just because this is a moralistic,