

before anything develops, is that correct?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: All right. That's...that's the point I was trying to get to and I probably went way out of the way to get there, but I am trying to determine whether, in fact, we are at this time, in your mind, if it's agreeable to the group, to say, yes, we are going to start the process of construction of a penitentiary to meet the needs that have been demonstrated for the state of Nebraska. Is that...is that...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: From my perspective, yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Okay. I appreciate your answer and I think it makes it clearer in what I've been trying to sort out in my mind, and so with that, I appreciate your answers. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I am supporting Senator Lindsay's amendment, and I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein some questions based on...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the language on page 4 that Senator Lindsay would strike. All that I see here is that the Department of Corrections is authorized to prepare preliminary design documents. That's all.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the only thing that is being specified about that design is that it should accommodate 480-beds, and it should...the structure should accommodate expansion.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: That's not very much in the way of specification, in my opinion, so that is not really doing anything to ensure that construction has to be a result of those designs being completed.