

Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Is anyone here prepared to present the amendment for Senator Chambers, who has authority to present the amendment for Senator Chambers? Seeing none, we'll pass over it. Oh, excuse me, here's Senator Chambers.

CLERK: Senator, your amendment is on page 1229 of the Journal. (FA542)

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It reduces the total amount. Madam President, members of the Legislature, it reduces the total amount being expended for these Quonset huts by \$1 million. That in a sense is an arbitrary amount. The only reason I'm going to not pull it at this point is because we don't have many members here and I do want the opportunity to discuss the next amendment that I have. The next one is more serious. This one that I'm talking about is serious too, but I would really want to try to obtain adoption of the next one. The next one would cut the amount to be spent for these Quonset huts in half, which means you'd have one instead of two. With the two, I believe, the number of prisoners to be accommodated would be 200, each Quonset hut accommodating 100 people. When I was talking to you about this the last time we met and were on this bill, I had spent considerable effort, probably not successfully, trying to focus our attention on what I consider to be the causes that have put us in the position that the state faces now of considering building its way out of a crime problem, meaning that more and more facilities for incarcerating people are to do be constructed. It's regretful, regrettable, in my opinion, that we would have this discussion during the time of politics, by that I mean when people are running for reelection or seeking higher office. I think the issue itself becomes skewed, and the aim is to try to find something which was done during the session which can be used in a political campaign. And it's very alluring during these days to say that one has fought against crime. But not any expedient that has been adopted by the federal government or any state can be shown to have reduced crime one wit. The reductions that have taken place are based on the fact that these so-called baby boomers are now getting older and growing out of that age group where these crimes are committed. So as you have fewer people in the age category who commit crimes, fewer crimes are committed and fewer people are going to be involved in committing crimes. If, on the other