

as an Appropriation (sic) Commission member, it also says to me if we're looking at a 60 million dollar prison then in next year's budget we better determine where the revenue's coming from because it's not going to fall from the sky and it's not going to come from the current state appropriation. It means planning. It's a planning tool and that's why I think the study is necessary and I would urge the body to support the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. First, I have to, I guess, respond that Senator Witek's comments, she's finally smoked us out that political bill, that political amendment was created by that conservative Republican, Roger Wehrbein, and that liberal Democrat Lindsay. Finally figured it out they've been acting in concert for all these years. I think the idea that this is a political bill is...or a political amendment is absurd. It's simply not. I think Senator Hillman was right on when she said it's a very responsible amendment. What it says is here's the picture. Department of Corrections will come back to us, say here's the situation, you've got this many inmates, here's why they're coming in. It's not making a judgment on whether that's right or wrong as far as why they're coming in. It's saying here...that here's...the fact is that they are coming in. Now you're going to have to deal with those, so that moves to the second thrust of the amendment, which is long-range planning. An interesting concept in politics, but something that maybe we ought to start looking at. It's saying that the Appropriations Committee doesn't need to just look out what do we need to do in the next two years, but if we've got 60 million coming on in four years we ought to know that now. If we got another 60 million coming on in six years we ought to know that now. If we got another 60 million coming on two years after that, we ought to know that now so that we can start planning for that, so that we don't have to start jacking up taxes all of a sudden or doing Draconian cuts simply to fund something that we knew was coming. That, I think, is the second...is the second (inaudible) of the amendment, is saying let's do some long-term planning. We keep hearing that we need to run government like a business. There's no business in the world that's successful that's going to do planning on just...on a short cycle on just how much money they got coming in right now. They're going to do that long-term planning and