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are down. Sitting on the Judiciary Committee, it looks like things were projected to go up a lot faster than they are, and I question whether it's a maximum and medium security prison that we need. There's certainly some merit in discussing that. I'd say what we do need are more work camps, work release camps and so on, and fewer beds in that maximum/medium security prison. And I don't hesitate to say that we do need the beds. The people are there. We just don't need them in maximum security environment. And as far as Senator Brown, the work camp is an alternative corrections center in action. It's something I feel we need and there are some benefits to having it out away from another facility and so on. As far as being away from family, in some cases those are not always the best influences on the...the work camp folks that are out there and they get away from that particular environment it may help them some. And, also, I could point out that the work camp is not constructed, obviously, like a prison, as such. Can modify that and the mission could change a little bit. If we need to go to...from a work camp situation to work release and so on, why, we do have that flexibility out there, so I would...I'm certainly in favor of looking at the number projections again. And I realize it's getting...time is short here to do...make any changes because there is construction going on, but certainly we need to look at it and operational costs and so on. With that, I would turn the rest of my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:** Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Brown, Brown, excuse me, followed by Engel, Jensen, Chambers, and Thompson. Senator Brown waives off. Senator Engel.

**SENATOR ENGEL:** Mr. Chairman, members of the body, you know, two years ago this was a good concept and, as far as I'm concerned, it still is a good concept, the work camp itself. I have to agree with Senator Pederson though. When we did work this bill through two years ago, and it took most the session to do it, like he said, it was supposed to be next to an existing facility. However, it isn't. Ground has been broken in McCook, whether we agree with it or not, but \$800,000 has been spent up to this point on contract obligations and the bid letting is set for May 20th of this year. So, as far as the work camp itself, wherever it is, as far as I'm concerned we still need it because it was...it is a form of probation. It's...and I don't recall