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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD:    Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON:      Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the time from Senator Beutler to discuss this just a little bit further while the amendment is being completed, and Senator Brown is working on that as we speak. To get back to the issue as a recommendation, I, as Chair of the task force, I did feel we were conducting a study on behalf of the Legislature. This was a bill in the Legislature last year. It was amended into a mainline bill. It was passed. I felt pretty strongly that, as Chair of that group, that proposals should come forward and this is one of the big ones from that purpose, and I know a lot of other people are working on a lot of other issues at the same time, and I commend the work of Senator Crosby on the Appropriations Committee, and others who have worked on many, many issues before the state. But I felt particularly responsibility to this issue and I haven't gone it alone. Senator Suttle, Senator Dwite Pedersen, Senator Jensen, as well as many other senators, have worked very hard to bring forward proposals to the Legislature this year because this is the situation where we are at an overcrowding. We are dealing with substandard facilities, and I'd just like to finish reading this part of it. I see Senator Brown is at the front of the room so I will immediately stop when we're ready to go, but I do think that the proposals before you are pretty clear cut. It gives you another option in addition to the one in LB 652, which would be a raise in the cigarette tax. This is a way to look at another option to address these juvenile issues. Said: While many of the facilities have been retrofitted to meet basic fire code requirements, design of several of the living units makes fire safety a continued concern. The Paul Dunbar living unit at the YRTC Geneva Campus, for example, was constructed in 1919. It is a multistory facility with individual sleeping rooms equipped with manual locks on the doors. In the event of evacuation, each sleeping room door would have to be individually unlocked. The evacuation plan for this building relies on youth to assist staff in unlocking doors to expedite release. Morton living unit at YRTC Kearney is an older structure with similar design limitations. Contemporary facilities are equipped with electronic locks, with remote gang release capability to open all doors at once in an emergency.