SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: You've heard the closing. The question before the body is the adoption of the Wehrbein amendment to LB 880. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted who care to? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 14 nays, Mr. President, on the amendment.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Amendment's adopted. Next item?

CLERK: Mr. President, I'm now back to Senator Pedersen's amendment that you'd opened on earlier, Senator. (AM1565)

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: I would withdraw that.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: It's withdrawn.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Bruning would move to amend. (See AM1638 to LB 880 on page 1838 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bruning, you're recognized to open on your amendment.

SENATOR BRUNING: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the amendment before you attempts to add $500,000 to the state Department of Education for mentoring programs. This is essentially LB 653, which I introduced, and certainly would have prioritized had it not stalled in committee, four to four. I continue to believe that this is the type of a program that will save the state money in the long run. And let me reiterate for you a few statistics that some of you may have heard. Right now it costs $22,000 per year to imprison a person. The kids right now that are not getting attention, that are not getting help with mentors are tomorrow's prison inmates. Today's dropouts, tomorrow's prison inmates. Let me give you this statistic, this just blew me away, if I can find it here. Well, here it is. Sixty-seven percent of the people currently incarcerated in Nebraska did not graduate from high school. What does that tell you? Tells you if you spend money on the front end, you don't have to spend it on the back end. And so you don't think I'm spending money as fast as I can with both hands, I voted with Senator Pedersen to cut that $500,000. I don't want to see it doled out by Corrections in the form of grants. I want to see