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SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Dwite Pedersen, you have 3 minutes and 30 seconds.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Senator Brashear. I want the body to know that this bill would never have got this far without the direction of Senator Brashear. I know that many of us in here have worked and talked about this kind of thing for a long time, along with a lot of the people who served on the committee. But, as the Chairman of this committee, he held our noses to the grindstone, the meetings were regular, consistent, and forced us to get something done. This would not have been done without his direction and I believe he needs to be recognized for that. As you might know, I'm very much in support of LB 46. My only regret is that we didn't do it before we built the new prison as that was basically the same thing I wanted when I put the amendment on to stop the new prison, was to build work release centers and to do more of the community correction type thing. But just some of the numbers, so you understand it, less than one-fourth of the inmates we have out of the 4,000, approximately 4,000 in the state of Nebraska, are in for violent crimes, and they're the ones who get the most publicity. That means we have three-fourths of them that are not in there for violent crimes, but I would suggest to you that at least a half of them need to be there because of their past criminal records, the type of crime they might have committed, and the punishment they need. But that still leaves a good fourth of the inmates that are there only being warehoused. And the whole idea of punishment by itself is absolutely ridiculous, because there's not a person in this room or a person in that prison that didn't become acclimated to their surroundings within a week to two weeks' time. That did not mean they were happy the entire time they were there, but you learn to live there. And it's not fancy living. That's why I take tours every year, so people can come through the prisons and see that it's not fancy living. Yes, they have TV. Yes, they have air conditioning. But if you worked there, you wouldn't want anything less. Air conditioning and TVs are the two main...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.