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LB 283

something like that, and on the floor it sounds like, yes, who's going to object to that sort of a thing? And just who's going to object to what the worthwhile purpose that Senator Jensen has in mind? But I think that now we have to start getting very real. We have to quit talking about what our feelings are and what our moral compunctions are, and I think we have to get very, very realistic about the fact that we need to go forward and to pass a budget so that we can afford the necessary things for the state of Nebraska. And I can't support Senator Jensen's proposal, although I know it's well motivated and I respect Senator Jensen a lot. I just think that we should go back. I'm sorry, frankly, that we didn't pass the amendment to this particular bill of LB 283, but that's gone now, unless it's reconsidered by someone, but I just think that we need to go forward and I think we need to start focusing on the fact that we've got to get a budget passed. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pederson. The speaking order are Senators Thompson, Wehrbein, Janssen, Jensen, Bromm, Beutler, Preister. Senator Thompson.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, been thinking about that last vote and what it means and where we go from here, and I hope at least part of it means that we're willing to look at this source of revenue, that we know that we have to have revenue and we're shooting for what that number should be. But I also hope that it's an indication that at least a lot of you believe we needed to get to this amendment to look at ways to turn the tide on what is happening in our budget. Senator Jensen or Senator Landis referred to it as new spending, and that is what it would be, but it is because we have a huge prison population that's costing us money. We have a huge amount of...number of children in our juvenile justice system that can't get treatment. And what we need to do and what the Jensen amendment does, it doesn't say we're just treating people in prison when they're already there. And that's part of the way we get those folks' recidivism rate cut, so that we don't have to spend so much money on the prisons. But there is preventative treatment money. As a state, if you take the amount that we spend on substance abuse treatment, this is mainly federal money, but if you put all that together in a