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LB 407

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Bourne, followed by Senator Mines.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Again, I rise in support of both Senator Don Pederson and Senator Dwite Pedersen's amendments. I think it makes sense that we actually reduce the number of facilities that we have, but I do think that it makes sense to delay that, even though I think we're going to need more help in the first year of our budget, given the cash flow situation, than we are in the second. One thing, and Senator Synowiecki had mentioned this in his talk, is that the Department of Corrections itself recommended closing two facilities, the youth facility in Omaha and, as I understand it, I could have these numbers wrong, \$3.5 million per year. They also recommended closing the McCook work release center, and that's \$3.2 million. So the department itself has actually recommended the closure of facilities, and I commend them for that. Senator Dwite Pedersen, would you yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pedersen, would you yield?

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR BOURNE: Earlier when I spoke, I thought of this after I sat down. And at one time, there was a significant shortage of staff people at the Tecumseh facility, at the new facility there in Tecumseh, Nebraska. Do you know if that's still a fact that they're having difficulties getting staff people to work there at the facility?

SENATOR DW. PEDERSEN: I am not sure that as of today. I should have got that before I did this, but I don't have it. But I do know there's some openings at NSP.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. Well, that's something that I was thinking about, and I know that at one time they were having difficulties getting people to relocate or to go down there to Tecumseh, and even though that's a wonderful community, I might add. But, you know, this might make some sense. I know a lot