

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 13, 2003

LB 407

ongoing programs. And secondly, I'm just not sure, considering the mix of prisoners and so forth...which I am not expert, not an expert at all, I leave that to the Judiciary Committee...I just think that this is going to cause us some grief that we'll have to take up again next year. But I will support Senator Pederson's amendment because I believe it delays it. Now some would have us keep that in there, not delay it, so that it isn't quite as attractive. But my sense is here that many of you would like to do this, want to give it a whirl. I understand that frustration. We've spent quite a few minutes, if not hours, in our committee, trying to do something with Corrections budget. It's a huge budget, almost \$160 million. It's huge. But we were unable to find those savings that you're asking for. And so I understand Senator Pedersen's concern about doing this. And if that, so be it. Let's delay it a year and have a better understanding of all the ramifications. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schrock, on the Pederson amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's 6:47 on Tuesday evening, May 13. I don't believe I've ever had a constituent come up to me and say, we ought to solve the state's budget problems by releasing 500 inmates early, so I am not going to vote for this now, with what little knowledge I have of the subject. Thank you for your time.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Dwite Pedersen, on the Don Pederson amendment.

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. There's a few of you that were here when we built Tecumseh, and I should say "we" because there was only two votes against building Tecumseh. Senator Chambers and myself were them. But I do remember the debate what we had with the Department of Corrections when we built Tecumseh, and that was that Lincoln Correctional Center is not a maximum security facility; we need Tecumseh; all we have is NSP. At the time, I was able to prove to the body that we didn't have enough maximum security prisoners to fill up NSP, let alone build another maximum security facility. But now we're back on the talk that is a medium/maximum security