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facility and we need it. That's what Tecumseh is, people, and that is what NSP is, is a maximum security facility. And they mix them any way they want. You can ask wardens across the country. I have toured hundreds of prisons, talked to lots of wardens and people, and one of the things they'll tell you, classification is a way of management of population. Some of us have been aware of that. Like Senator Chambers said, we tell them what to do. I think it's their job to do it. I will tell you I have a heartache with this, also; that is, that the facility that I have chose to put on the block, Lincoln Correctional Center, is to me by far the best institution that the Department of Corrections has, with the people who run it. It's the institution that I enjoy visiting the most. I'm not saying the others are bad. I'm just saying this is a topnotch facility. But we're back to dollars. We're back to locking up people that don't need to be locked for this length of period of time, not for what they were sentenced...they're serving much more time than what they were sentenced for. And a lot of them are not violent. And even those that are should have some time that they have supervised release. It's time for us to make a move, and I believe that time is now. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Pedersen. Senator Johnson, followed by Senators Schimek, Engel, Senator Don Pederson, and Janssen, and others.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback and members of the body, last summer when I arrived in this Chamber, we cut some 30 to 40 million dollars from higher education. The Governor's proposed budget for us to consider this time was that we were to cut another \$130 million from higher education. At the same time that we're doing this for the finest citizens in Nebraska, cutting them 160-170 million dollars, the Department of Corrections' budget is proposed to go up another \$30 million. It is the fastest growing budget we have--14 percent per year. We like to brag in Nebraska that we have the best people of any place in the world, and yet we lock them up right and left and can't parole them. Last...at the start of this year, the Department of Corrections was asked to submit cutting and closing facilities. It's kind of interesting to me that they took McCook and the facility in Omaha for the ones that they