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wanted to close. These are rather unique facilities, as I understand it, and I have been told within the last few days that, if you close McCook, the judges will be forced to send all of those prisoners directly to a penitentiary. There won't be any choice. So I find it interesting that the Department of Corrections proposed that we close these two facilities. Maybe they didn't want any facilities closed and they wanted to continue the bureaucracy that they have established. One of the things, and I'd ask a question of Senator Dwite Pedersen, if he's available.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Dwite Pedersen. Is he on the floor?

SENATOR JOHNSON: This is the question that I wanted to ask him. Are the costs of the prisoners' families included in the savings of the \$10 million. While these people are incarcerated, they're not working, they're not supporting their families; therefore, their families go on public assistance as well. So I think we'd probably lose more than the \$10 million that we're talking about. Senator Pedersen,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Pedersen.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...does the cost of...

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR JOHNSON: ...your \$10 million saving, is that only the direct costs in the prison system itself, or is it an expanded cost for the care of their families, and so on?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: No, it's only the cost of the prison, Senator.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I would suspect that there's a very significant difference and it actually ends up costing a lot more than the \$10 million we're talking about. Well, I'm going to support both of these because, whereas it's a bold idea late in the session, maybe it's about time for bold ideas. We have plenty of time to adjust to this, and I think it's a good idea.