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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 407

offenders in LCC, but not all the inmates...the biggest percentage of them are not sex offenders. There is a sex offender treatment facility there, but...

SENATOR ENGEL: Okay. But where do they...where will they go then, Senator?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: They can segregate them at one of the other institutions, OCC, the Omaha Correctional Center, the Nebraska state pen, the same way they segregated the alcohol and drug treatment facility.

SENATOR ENGEL: Okay. So we'll be freeing up enough prisoners across the system, nonviolent ones, to make room so we can still keep those violent ones behind bars. Is that what you're telling me?

SENATOR Dw. PEDERSEN: Yes, sir.

SENATOR ENGEL: Okay. Well, that's the questions I had. Thank you. I return the rest of my time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there have been some very interesting comments made. I can tell some senators, like one sitting right in front of me, is a little upset about this proposal. (Laugh) Senator Schimek is not thrilled with the idea. But, you know, there aren't any safe things to do in this world. But one thing that we need to do is what it takes to try and get a pare-down of our budget. And we're certainly not getting it by coming back every year and dealing with increases such as we have seen in Corrections. So I think it's very important that we start to make a step in this direction and, in a sense, it's too bad that we're doing it this way on the floor, but it's certainly far better to do it this way than it is never to do it at all. And I think we need to start to make these changes. I think we need to take a different view of Corrections. I think we need to start being more realistic about Corrections and not just perpetuating the program, as has been the case in the seven years that I've been