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LB 407

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Yes, I am, thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Since you serve on Appropriations Committee, Senator Pederson, what was the rationale that the Corrections gave to you for closing the, I think, the McCook, as I heard, and the juvenile one in Omaha? What was their rationale to do that? If you're going to have to make any budget cuts, why were they going to do those rather than the one that Senator Pedersen, the other Pedersen, Dwite Pedersen? Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Senator Hartnett, thank you for the question. Actually, I don't think that you could say that they suggested that we close either the Omaha or the McCook facility. We asked each one of the agencies to come forward with a cut that they would suggest that they would do if they had to do, and that came back in the form of a modification. So what they said was, if you have to do something, these were the two facilities. And when we first viewed that, we were looking strictly at dollars to see whether we could save some money by those facilities.

SENATOR HARTNETT: How much would you have saved by the McCook, and how much would you have saved by...if you can remember, Senator Pederson? Maybe that's...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: I think with the McCook facility, I think it was, like, \$6.8 million,...

SENATOR HARTNETT: And the...

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...and I can't recall offhand the Omaha facility. But then, when we went back...if you don't mind my saying...

SENATOR HARTNETT: No. Go ahead. Yeah, go ahead.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: We reviewed that after we had had more opportunity to find out what was going to take place if we closed those facilities, and specifically had a lot of