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LB 407

that...maybe Senator Chambers didn't say this, but it was implied that the reason we're closing down this prison is because we have a problem with the administration of the prison. I think we have the best correctional administration in the country here. I don't agree with everything they do. I don't agree with the parole policies. But I'm not sure they control that. But I think we have a well run prison system. I just think it's too big. I think we need to reduce the size of it. Senator Schimek talked about having 4,000-some-odd inmates and 2,000 staff members. Is that the right number? I'm not sure. But it seems that we have two prisoners for every staff member. Maybe that's appropriate. I don't know. But unfortunately, we have to reduce the size of government, as far as I'm concerned. We keep talking about it. People keep putting amendments to cut. But those aren't cuts. Think about how many things that we've really had that are actual, real cuts. And to me, a cut is something you eliminate that doesn't come back. Senator Brashear's amendment to put the money back...or, to have the money, the windfall money come back to state, how long do you think that will be before that's turned, even if we had adopted that, before that would be turned back? We'd adopt that now. The communities would turn the money back to the state. And you and I all know that next year someone would introduce a bill, and that money would go back to the communities. And I'd probably vote yes. But the fact is, is that we have done very little cutting. We've done a lot of shifting. And I think it's time that we start cutting. I oppose this motion. Let me give a few facts. The department itself recommended closing two facilities. They recommended closing the work camp out in McCook, and they recommended the Youth Center in Omaha. I'll vote to close both of those. That is a real cut. We will really have reduced the size of government. I don't...it doesn't matter to me if it's Lincoln Correctional Center, or if it's the youth facility, or if it's the work camp in McCook. I will vote to eliminate it, because we need to reduce the size of government. Senator Schimek talked about, do you know what kind of prisoners are at LCC? Well, with all respect, Senator Schimek, they're not going to release murderers who just were put on in prison. These are people like Dwite Pedersen mentioned, that are...have motor vehicle crimes. I've heard a statistic that 30 or 40 percent of the people in prison are