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LB 407

Correctional Center, who are going to be in limbo for the next year, not knowing whether their jobs are going to go away or not, working in an atmosphere in which there is great uncertainty and a fear of the institution being closed. And I have to speak for them one more time. I think there was a problem with our process this year. I think that we could just as well have waited until next year to come in and do what we did, and do it with finality, if we were going to do it, rather than putting people in a kind of never-never land for the next year. I submit to you that the savings will not be what we thought they would be. The lowest estimate I've seen is that it would...we would save about \$2 million on the closing of LCC, because of all the services that we would have to provide for the Diagnostic and Evaluation Center which are not being provided now, and because many of the staffers at LCC will have to go to other institutions so that we can provide some of the very unique kinds of services that are now provided at LCC. In addition to that, we have \$1 million for parole officers in tha' bill. So the net savings may not be much at all. And we will be seriously adding to the overcrowding problems at some of the other institutions. I want you all to know that the amendments that I filed on this bill on Select File were not truly serious amendments. The amendments to close Norfolk, Hastings Regional Centers, the York center for women...Correctional Center for Women, they were not serious. But I wanted some of those senators who were voting for this bill to understand how it felt to have an amendment like that put on at the very last minute and without a proper procedure, in my estimation. Having said all that, I really do have confidence that the Judiciary Committee is going to do a good job in studying this issue. And I hope that they will have...I hope that we will have some strong recommendations on what to do about sentencing, and how to prevent some of this overcrowding in our prisons to begin with. And finally, I do plan to vote for LB 407, because if we don't vote for this bill, it has too many implications for a lot of other programs that I care about and that you care about; namely, the University of Nebraska, K-12 education, health provisions for vulnerable families in this state, and many, many others. So having said that, Mr. Chairman...Mr. Speaker, I would pull the motion to strike the enacting clause.