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FLOOR DEBATE

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honestly didn't believe it was that long ago. I guess time passes quickly when you're having fun. But anyway, that was my bill. And I think the Attorney General was absolutely right that it would be very iffy for any county to go ahead and build a private jail without changing statute, because I can tell you that the intent of the bill truly was that we not allow private jails either in Nebraska, and I think that was pretty well understood by the body at the time. If it wasn't, I'm just stating what the introducer's intent was. I have a question, I guess, of Senator Aguilar, and it's been brought to my attention that there was a Independent story yesterday, a Grand Island Independent story yesterday, and the headline says, "County jail consultant recommends November bond vote." And it appears, at least from the article, that the consultant is recommending that Hall County not go to a privatized prison; that they go ahead and issue the bond issue and build their jail that way. And if that is the case, I'm wondering if we even need this bill this year from Senator Aguilar's perspective. And first of all, Senator Aguilar, if you would respond to a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Aguilar, would you respond to a question?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes, I will.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: You just heard my reference to this article. Is your understanding of the article the same as mine?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Yes.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Okay. So do you think that's what's going to happen in Hall County now?

SENATOR AGUILAR: We absolutely don't know, and that's why I'm still...why I'm introducing the bill today, is they would...

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Would you say it's likely they will follow the consultant's recommendation or...?

SENATOR AGUILAR: Well, I talked to the Chair of the board and she still would...said she would like the option of have...being