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FLOOR DEBATE

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be a self-fulfilling prophesy by the way in which the Parole Board is looking at this thing now. I've been informed that we have at least 250 more nonviolent offenders that are out on parole than we've had before. Well, that's half the size, basically, of the Lincoln Correctional Complex. Now we have to look at recidivism rates and things like that, but we're headed in the right direction. We're getting some of these people out. LB 46 kind of opened the door to doing some of these things. I don't think we need to make an immediate move, but I think it's in the...it's in the near term that this is going to become a reality, that we are going to be able to make some substantial Corrections cuts. It's hard to do just in the abstract, but I think it's starting to develop. Senator Dwite Pedersen also mentioned about the colleges, whether we have too many. We had a study group that spent the entire summer looking at our higher education system in the state, and it was a task force. And we met diligently, and we came up with some interesting things that are occurring. Senator Pedersen is referring to the lessening of the numbers in the state colleges. Well, something really exciting is happening in the community college level. Community colleges are expanding greatly, and it's a really good thing for our society, but we need to get some of these people that are graduating from the community college with an AA degree to move on to a bachelor's degree. We need that kind of educated workforce in the future in this state. And this is happening. Articulation agreements have been made between the community colleges and the state colleges to work a coordinated effort to get these students that are graduating from the community college into a bachelor's program. Now most...

SPEAKER BROMM: One minute.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: ...students in Nebraska who go on to school stay within a radius of their own hometown. And I know in North Platte, for example where I'm from, that it's difficult for people to try and have a job after they graduate, go on and try and get a bachelor's degree and stay in the same area, stay at home or whatever else. Well, this past December I had the privilege of speaking to a group that was graduating in North Platte from Chadron State College. They had been able to stay in their own home area. They'd been able to complete their