

when they leave prison. Because there are educated people who go to prison, we know that. It is not all just education, but a lot of these young people haven't had the incentive nor the opportunity,...

SENATOR HALL PRESIDING

SENATOR HALL: One minute.

SENATOR CROSBY: ...and when they come out, a lot of them who have been right out here at the correctional facility in Lincoln, who have had some of those community college courses or the university courses and so on, go on to finish, taking an associate degree or a bachelor's and fit into society and take their proper place. So for that reason, I am supporting, at this stage of the game, the rest of us on Appropriations Committee, it is very hard to vote for anything that has even 20 cents in it. It is very difficult because we know that budget and the problems we are up against. But for all the reasons I have stated, I am supporting it at this time. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, we do have a problem in this state, and that is that we do have prison overcrowding. I don't know how many of you noted the fiscal note, on page 6 of the fiscal note, the Department of Correctional Services estimated that in this current year we are operating facilities at 153 percent of the designed capacity. Now it states also in the fiscal note that 42 other states, 42 other states have court intervention, meaning release of prisoners because their prison capacity is over 150 percent. The State of Nebraska has done an excellent job in dealing with prison overcrowding, but it still has to continue on. As noted in the fiscal note, that we will, with completion of the current construction projects, this 153 percent of design capacity, will drop to approximately 130 percent of capacity. It further states in the note, that while far from ideal, this will offer some relief from overcrowding pressures. Current population projections indicate that the inmate population will continue to grow back towards the current level without some alternatives to prison. I think that we should realize from this statement from the Department of Corrections that in the future we will be constructing correctional facilities. Instead of reacting and