

Bernard-Stevens has given us another opportunity on LB 627, the ramifications of incarceration, of our whole problems, and the whole effect of young men and women being in jail. Sometimes on television, you see these situation comedies where somebody is arrested and put in a cell with other offenders, and it is supposed to be funny. For me, it is never funny. I don't think it is funny to be in jail under any circumstances, and I think anyone who has ever been there, who has ever been detained for any reason will tell you that it is frightening, that it is not fun. And so when you talk about this kind of legislation, remember, you are talking about people who will be detained, who will not have their freedom, who will be in a situation and an atmosphere that none of us want to be in. This bill has come to the point, it has been battered and slapped around so much, I am at the point where I am not sure who wants what, when it comes right down to it. I'd be pleased to vote for the bracket motion because I think the study is important, but also, on the other side of the coin, I think the boot camp, which I don't like to call a boot camp because, as I said earlier in the discussions a couple of weeks ago, boot camp for service men is a group, a unit, who has a mission for that unit. They learn to think as a unit because of what their mission is. This training camp, or whatever you want to call it, for these people would be a period of education, the kind of thing that they would learn to get along in society, to learn about themselves, why they feel rebellious, why they did what they did, so for that reason, I hate to let the bill go. I really do because I think that that is a beginning. I have been to the Corrections Center which is like two miles from my home, the one out at 14th and Highway 77, Highway 77 and Highway 2, excuse me. I have been there at least twice recently. It is not a happy place. You see young men, the age of my children, out there, age of my children and much younger, who run every day to exercise, who play ball, who have activities to try to keep busy because being in prison the worst thing that happens to anyone, men and women, they will tell you the same thing out at York, the worst thing is the boredom. They know they can't walk out. They can't even take a walk outside the fence. They can't go to a movie. They can't go down to the ice cream store. They can't see their children. And I have had letters from...I have had one in particular from a young woman whose husband is in because of white-collared crime, who...they are trying very hard to...he has some kind of work release thing where they are trying very hard to hold their family together and to take care of them on the money that they make.