

cost savings could be in the range of \$100,000, just in the time that we meet in this legislative session, we have already paid for the entire cost of setting up this electronic access. That should not scare anybody away when you look at the cost issue. The cost issue is a minor factor. That's what I said when I first introduced 1359 and people said, but we don't believe that, we're not sure, costs could be exorbitant, it could be excessive. The final figures are in, folks. I overestimated costs. Computer Services did an exceptional job. They implemented it this session, they implemented it at a time when they were overworked by having to do staff training, they implemented it at a time when they were setting up other computer access. They have worked on their own time to put this together, which shows that they have the capability, the dedication, and the ability to do so. On the back of that information is another piece of information that you can look at on your own time, but it in a sense answers the question of whether or not our staff could actually do it, if that were the policy decision that we made. And, essentially, to go through that you can do on your own. But basically, programmers currently working for Nebrask(at) Interactive are graduates of our own University of Nebraska. We've got home grown people that are doing it. And, in effect, there was one person, one computer programmer, and until recently Nebrask(at) Interactive only had two programmer positions. We're not talking about a lot of people, we're not talking about a lot of expertise that we don't already have. So we should not be scared away from severing the contract, even at this very late date that is now in the amendment...

SENATOR CROSBY: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: ...because of fear of either costs or of the ability to do the job. We have exceptional computer people in our own Computer Services and in other departments who could certainly do the work, who have demonstrated their ability to do the work, who have demonstrated that ability under more than trying conditions, while we're in session as a matter of fact, when they are also providing a service and adding new services. So I submit that information to you in the hope that you will consider that those are not major issues. And I will relinquish the remainder of my time and not speak again on this subject for the evening in my effort to be brief. Thank you.