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private service contract for employees of the state.

SENATOR PREISTER: That...that's correct, and defining it is important. I take it that you don't have a number at this point.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I could get you a number. That number is produced in a document called the annual audit report. It's produced by KPGM and is done annually. We break out those expenditures. If you give me a little bit of time, I could advise you.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. The point that I'm trying to make is it's a large figure. It's one that we don't have a good handle on. It's one that I think needs some regulating, some oversight, because I think we need additional accountability when it comes to this area. It's an issue that I've been working on because of that accountability. In...and I'll answer a little bit, I don't know the answer to my own question, and usually you should know an answer before you ask it, but in one biennium, in just those two budget years, 1996 and 1997, in adding up all of the private service contracts that we were able to identify my staff came up with approximately \$780 million. But we're also fairly sure that that's not all of the private service contracts. There is probably more. I have, for your viewing entertainment perhaps on your computer, just sent you an e-mail about an hour or two ago, an e-mail that has a listing of many of the current private service contracts. If you wanted to scroll through that and see some of the kinds of things that are listed on there you get a sense of the flavor of what is at least listed. And the reason I think that that's important to see is because there are things there that may very well be very legitimate items and they may very well be things that we should let private service contracts for. However, barring real assessment, we don't really know whether they're appropriate, inappropriate, whether they save us money, whether they cost us money. We don't have any real actual data that I can locate to determine what these things are, whether they're saving us money or not saving us money, and there are some examples that certainly may say they're more expensive than actually doing those services in house. There