

of this issue and the reason that it is coming to you now. You can read briefly the history behind the automation. It has been part of the intent language in the legislature for several years to have the libraries automated at the state colleges. But the key reason that we are bringing this to you now is down at the bottom of the page on 42589, the vendor bids, for the library automation project were open. In other words, we had a request for a proposal back in February and they just now came in, so this is the reason for the lateness of the hour. As you can tell, even at that, we had allocated tentatively a \$1.9 million, which was in the bill LB 770. The bids came in at 1.7. At this time the Appropriations Committee is recommending that we allocate \$25,000 to be a part of the, I'll read it out of the bill, there is included in the appropriations to this program \$25,000 to support the cost of contractual consulting services and other expenses associated with refinement of the plan or proposal. The refined plan and proposal shall be submitted to the Legislative Fiscal Analyst and the DAS on October 15, 1989. It is the intent of the Legislature that such plan and proposal refinements identify alternative levels of public and student access to the planned automated library systems and system components. It goes on to detail that and more. The reason for this we want to be sure that we are getting a good coordinated package for computer services to see if there can be more coordination with the University of Nebraska system, which is also being requested and also the counties across the state. As you know we have got several million dollars at stake here. It was our feeling that this could be further refined before we allocate the money. But you will keep in mind that when this issue comes up next January, that it will approximate \$1.7 million or hopefully less. Hopefully they will be coordinated with the University of Nebraska system and the state system which will reach into all counties which is already a part of 813. If there are any questions on that I'll be happy to announce that this \$25,000 is principally at this time, is to provide for consultant services so that we do have some expertise, advice and to express the intent that we do intend to go forward with this as a legislature.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore followed by Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to support, obviously support the amendment. As I mentioned last week on some related discussions on library automation, this whole area