

like to see what's going on, they ask for a copy and then a second copy is made for them and those fees are what's involved with LB 37. Currently, the court reporters charge 75 cents per every 100 words. And so we calculate this on per 100 words and they take an average of so many words per page. There's about 250 words per page with their proceedings and their transcripts and bills of exceptions. Real difficult. It's hard to count all those words, Senator Lynch. And so what you have to do is you sort of make an estimate of how many words there are by the number of pages. To get away from that complicated system, this changes to a per-page calculation. The current fees work out to about a \$1.87, a \$1.88 per page. They're requesting an increase to \$2.75 per page. The last time that this was increased was back in 1978. And so it has been some 13 years since there has been any increase. These fees are paid to them. Every state in the union pays additional fees to the court reporters for them to do this work. They also have...and the amendment we just voted on with the committee amendments raises it to 50 cents or establishes it at 50 cents, excuse me. There is no set fee for copies right now. So you may go to a courthouse and want copies for, let's say, genealogy work and some counties may charge you nothing and give you the photocopies. Others may charge you a \$1.00 a page. Same way works with court reporters, although they never...they can't do...they can't afford to give those things away, so they charge something but they're...the fees are all over the board. This establishes the cost of the copies at 50 cents. Are they just photocopies like what I have handed out to you? No, they're bound volumes. They have been proofread, collated, certified and are there. If someone doesn't want to pay the 50 cents to get the copy, they can always go up and copy their own. The originals are filed with the court where the appeal took place and so an individual, if they want to keep the cost down of their own, they can bypass that. They don't have to get a copy and pay for it, they can go off and do it themselves, although it would not be a certified copy and would not be bound, and so on, that's a lot easier to use. There are 51 court reporters in the State of Nebraska. They serve all of our courts. This applies to appeals from County Court to District Court and from District Court to our Supreme Court and, hopefully, to the Court of Appeals. The cost of increase of their supplies and so on I passed out to you in a handout which shows what they buy and how the costs have increased since 1978. For example, the paper has more than doubled in this period of time. The carbon paper has gone up almost three times and so on and so on with all their costs of doing this. Does this