

proposes that we phase in the funding for this project over a four-year period. We would allocate \$200,000 each year of this biennium with the understanding that we will come back in 1993 and 1994, and 1994 and '95 and ask for the final two years of the phase-in funding. I would just take a moment to explain to the body just what it is we are talking about and we're talking about automating our libraries. Essentially when we're talking about automating a library we're talking about replacing the wooden card catalogs, that we all have grown up with, with computers. An automated library system will have a central computer and several terminals which are connected to that computer. Through these terminals patrons can simply input the name of the book or an author or a particular subject to determine whether that, whether or not that a title is in the library's collection or what works of an author in the collection. The patron can also find out whether or not the book they are looking for is currently on the shelf. This is sort of an innovative in education or excellence in education type amendment in case anybody is not listening or are listening, either/or. For example, let's say Senator Crosby is looking for to see if there is an automated library that she is at has any books by F. Scott Fitzgerald in its collection. She would simply enter the name Fitzgerald, in the computer and receive a complete list of Fitzgerald works in the library's collection. She could then proceed to enter the name of the specific book into the computer and find out whether or not somebody already has the book checked out or if it is currently available. Another advantage of an automated library is that the patrons' records can be managed by the computer system. When a patron wants to check out a book the library can simply scan a bar code on the patron's library card and scan the bar codes on the books being checked out. The patron's record will accordingly be credited as borrowed those particular books. When the books are checked back in the patron's record will be cleared by the computer. May I have a gavel, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you. Since this is a very serious bill, excellence in education, innovation in education bill I wouldn't mind everybody listening to this. Thank you, Madam President. Why should we automate these libraries? What will be the specific benefits? The collection within these libraries will be more accessible to the general public. With these automated systems patrons will be able to access the computer list from