

libraries across the State of Nebraska including the ten affected. I think there is ten libraries actually affected by Senator Robak's amendment, came in and said well, we do not...guess we want the money, but we do not choose to eliminate the Nebraska Film Service to try and make money available. So at that time I guess that the committee's point of view was that, if in this particular situation, if this sort of grant program (inaudible) worthwhile, if it was not their desire to eliminate the Nebraska Film Service to make room for that, the committee chose not to fund this issue. I understand that it's \$800,000. It would certainly be worthwhile to particularly the ten communities involved, but one has to understand a couple of things to begin with. Senator Robak mentioned the Kiewit grant. There has been some expression that unless we do that now, we appropriate some money now, that Kiewit grant will evaporate. We are under the impression that is not the case. The window is still open on that and in future years if we so choose to participate in this, it is our opinion the Kiewit grant will still be there. And so it simply was the committee's opinion that since elimination of the Nebraska Film Service to allow room for this project was not agreeable to many of the libraries across the State of Nebraska, we chose not to fund it. And at this point in time I would rise to oppose Senator Robak's amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Crosby.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President and members, I just thank Senator Robak for bringing this amendment and for working with the library people. After the appropriations Committee...we had a misunderstanding in the hearing concerning the film money as Senator Moore mentioned, and after we got our act together we realized that we had misunderstood the message that we were getting from the Library Commission and from this group that wants the automated libraries. But the automation of the libraries across the state in the smaller cities is just a step forward that helps so many people and it would be such a benefit to everybody in the state that I just have to support it. I'm going to vote for it and I know that right now that's probably going to give us a little trouble, but I hope some way or another we can hold this...send a message to all those 14 to hang on and to figure out some way to keep these grants and everything alive so this will become a reality eventually. It's just a very important project to our whole state. So thank you, Senator Robak, and I will vote for it.