

nothing more than say let's update this office, bring them into the twenty-first century with regard to the computer capabilities that we would expect for ourselves. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Hall. Next speaker is Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members. I will be brief, but I'm going to oppose the proposed amendment for the additional costs in the auditor's office. I just want to have everyone understand that we were fairly liberal with this office already. We increased their budget 6.3 percent, and 4.9 percent for the second year, in addition to funding their deficit of \$78,000. So even though I can understand the need for the computers, and there is no question in my mind in the long term that the computers will be justified, it just seems like this year, in the sake of fairness, we were particularly liberal with the office as it was. True, we have a change in the office, and there probably will be some different needs. But it seems like with the amount of money that we've allocated to this particular agency at this time, it is fair, actually more than fair. In addition to that, if we're looking at the audit situation, I think it's appropriate to wait until this year until we get the study in that we'd like to do within the Executive Board, to see where that audit should properly be, the performance audit I'm talking about, and to see then if that should properly be in Exec, or whether we should go back to the auditor. Next year is not too late to come back in and even make a deficit appropriation, or actually an additional appropriation next year for computers, if that's where we want this...the office...which office we want it to go in. So, at this time, I oppose this quite strongly because I think we've really been fair to the auditor as it is. We've increased the budget. Scott used the amount of \$84,000 and \$69,000, no small amount. And if we truly open this particular budget up in this case, I think we're going to be ripe for additional requests for similar amounts of money, all of which in themselves may not break the budget, but which in total are going to cause quite a disaster for us down the road, perhaps the rest of this week, as we try to find the additional money. Because realize that we are very close on the money now. We've got additional requests, very legitimately so, for western Nebraska and their disaster interests, which we're going to meet on again. So I urge you to oppose this amendment at this time.