

to accept that money. So that is what I am doing at this point. It is an amendment to AM3186. It is on page 2. All it does is strike Section 5 or Section 22 there, which is amendment number 5, it strikes the increases in the budget, which, by the way, were not in the Governor's recommendation, and over three years, as I mentioned, it will be \$800,000 for...about 14 cities in the state will benefit from library automation. Omaha and Lincoln is not affected. They do their own thing. This is a state thing that, you know, it is commendable. It is a good project. You know I like libraries. There was a time that I spent a lot of time in libraries. I think one of the most beneficial thing that schools provide is an acquaintance of their students of libraries, because there certainly is a wealth information that lasts you a lifetime. It is a continuing source of pleasure for people and information. I am not against libraries. I like libraries. I support them. But when I look at the fiscal situation of the State of Nebraska today, and as it is projected for the next two years, I am wondering if this is not an \$800,000 amount that could be cut from the budget because we are running into a deficiency situation. That is the reason for my amendment. I would ask you to support it. If you do not support it, I understand because it is a worthwhile project. The only thought here is, are we going to have the money to afford it. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body. Senator Lamb, I am very happy that you like libraries, but I am very unhappy that you would propose to axe from our budget one of the most important...oh, I'd say one of the most important things for our grandchildren and our children and those future grandchildren to come. During the last legislative session, the Nebraska Public Library Resource Group did ask this committee for \$800,000 for automation projects in its nonautomated member libraries. Somehow we got that whittled down but it didn't pass on the 11th hour, so we worked during the interim all year with various groups, and not only does this help the libraries that you mentioned, these communities, but it would help, it would help throughout the State of Nebraska. The Legislature finds that by providing automating library operations, public libraries can more effectively provide the state's citizenry access to expansionally growing knowledge bases and complex and wide range information. Community college campuses are located in these cities representing the proposal of this...of