

postsecondary educations and the University of Nebraska campus, and this will also be taken into account and factored in our bill. And this is the last time that we will get this matching funds from Peter Kiewit. I fail to understand why something as sensitive and as important as library automation is a subject of an axe, so to speak. I admire Senator Pirsch yesterday, who spoke long and passionately on the floor and managed to get money out of the General Fund for an issue that is very dear to my heart, and this issue is very dear to my heart also. We worked very hard and long on this committee on this agenda, and I just implore the body, please vote against the Lamb amendment. We need this. It will bring our state into the twenty-first century. It is permanent. It is something that you are not going to spend this one year, and you are going to be back again, and again, and again, and again, and again. It is permanent, and it is a step into the twenty-first century. I oppose the amendment. Thank you.

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

SENATOR MOORE: Mr. Speaker, and members, I rise to oppose Senator Lamb's amendment, that I appreciate his concern and conviction about the spending side of things. The one thing that he mentioned that made me punch my light was when he talked about the fact that this is not in the Governor's budget. That is true. It was not in the Governor's budget, but this is one of those things, such as I mentioned, if you look at the overall package of the Appropriations Committee's recommendation, we are slightly below the Governor's numbers. That is because we spent some things on...money on things he recommended...that he did not recommend to spend on. We also spent less on some things he recommended some money on. So the overall package does balance. Actually, with two amendments today, we are about right on top of the Governor's number, almost to the cent, as we speak, so I mean if that is a concern, that is true, but, obviously, like I said, we made some deeper cuts in some other areas to make it all work. As far as the library money, one of the thoughts of the committee, and I am sure other committee members will speak on this, but the reason we put this in there is that this is something that has been talked about a long time. Obviously, there was a resolution last year introduced, I believe, by Senator Robak to study this over the summer. There was...the Exec Board appointed a committee chaired by Senator Wehrbein, who did a very fine job of working with the local governments, and, basically, the situation is, it is one of those, many of