

motion now but you may be...get your wish soon if LB 1272 fails.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Mr. Speaker, members, Senator Lamb, I also understand I believe what you are trying to do here in looking at expenditures because obvious from some of the recent discussion we have had on some of the reductions we have tried to make here were very supportive. I think one of the things to really look at with this particular project is to see how it fits into the total picture. Senator Wehrbein chaired an interim study which helped us in dealing with the Library Commission, and they went back, the members did, did a lot of planning, did a lot of step-by-step process so we could understand how it all fits together. This request wasn't a new request. It has been around for a long time and I think we have more or less procrastinated on funding the project about as long as we can, and we have run out of time is why we looked at doing it this time. One of the other questions that I had that I would like to share with you is though we are looking at 13 communities here, my point is, well, what about all those other smaller communities? Who is going to be coming in, in the future? How are we going to look at limiting and telling the next community no? And to answer some of those questions, our local librarian, Shirley Flack, serves on the state board of the Resource Library Group and she sent me a few comments, which I think would help understanding where this money fits into the total picture. When this whole thing started quite a few years ago she wrote, she said, as librarians discussed the need to tie into a superhighway of information to help Nebraska's people, communities, and businesses succeed in a global economy, we realized that our smaller communities and schools needed to be involved from the beginning rather than trying to bring them in in the end. So the small communities needs for the most part have already been met. Federal funds, she goes on to say, coming to the Nebraska Library Commission have been used over the past few years to provide one-half matching technological grants to smaller communities. In my particular district, these were Mitchell, Gering, Alliance, Bayard, and other small ones. Now they have benefited. They are automated at this time from automation grants along with a lot of other libraries clean across the state in small towns. Also the Legislature funded automation for the university library systems and the state college libraries, which are automated now. We have funded those as a state. The private college libraries have received