

book is just one of my favorite things to do and I think a lot of the rest of you have the same extracurricular activity that I do with reading. But when the Lincoln Library automated about two years ago, I can't quite remember, and I don't have figures on it, but I know that Senator Robak will give you something from this, but I know from the testimony in the studies and from talking to Carol Connor that the circulation has increased since the automation. The old card catalog was a very difficult thing in many ways to manipulate, and, of course, we all did it and we all knew how to do it, but it takes a long time. You look at one card and it refers to something else. Well, you look at 100 cards to try to find the book you are looking for, but when they automate, now Senator Lamb if you haven't gone to a library where it is automated, I wish you would because it just boggles your mind how different it is. Love Library was the first one that I went to that was automated, and I...you know, just like that, you find what you are looking for and where to go and look for it in the stacks. So from that point of view, this network that this sets up and will go into the rural areas, for me, that is another step forward in preserving our rural areas and our rural towns, the small towns, and the medium-sized towns because they are going to have this ability to communicate. To borrow a book, you can call Lincoln on your...bring a book up on your screen, and they will lend you the book. They do that now but it is quite a long process, and now that is going to make that a lot easier. So, for that reason, I will continue to support the libraries. Libraries are near and dear to my heart, and I think all of us in this day and age, especially, when we are so...when we are trying to increase and enhance and strengthen our educational system and our economic development across the state, the libraries are just a key, integral part of that. And the Carnegie Libraries were the beginning. Let's continue that tradition in the State of Nebraska and keep this money in the budget. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I might remind the senators in their scheduling that we do intend to work through the noon hour today. The next speaker is Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, I was tempted to call the question because I think the debate has gone on quite a long time for this worthwhile project, but I guess I couldn't pass up Senator Robinson, when he said that his memory didn't go too far back. I am thankful that he didn't say at least that his memory was not too far gone, and so I feel sorry for Senator Lamb maybe