

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: For example, by using a computer and modem in the library of the school, students could access the card catalog enabling them to immediately find out whether or not a specific book or information about a specific subject is available at the city library. This would greatly increase the amount of media materials available to our students. In addition, the schools, most of which cannot afford to automate themselves, could take their students to the city library and teach them the use of an automated system which will be of benefit when they go on to a postsecondary education. And from the North Platte Catholic Schools, Mr. William McGahan indicates there is no doubt that the automation of our public libraries should be a priority. Nebraska should be taking a leadership role in this area and thus make the information explosion a generator of ideas and opportunities for the citizens of our state.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: I will ask for additional time.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you. Senator Lynch is next.

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, I just felt obliged, since I was from Douglas County, to call up and try to develop some kind of resolution and peace between our rural senators on this issue because, as you all know, it has been mentioned before, it has nothing to do with Omaha and Lincoln. I only said that in jest because we love you all, but, see you fight with each other, and then you still win anyhow, so it doesn't make any difference, it doesn't. But what I would seriously like to mention is that this is a package deal. During the Appropriations Committee, it has to do with doing business or not, and that Joyce Hillman reminded me, and it was an important point that hadn't been made yet, and that is all I wanted to do, is that when we develop these funds for matching funds for this particular grant, we have to take it all or nothing. And so it is important for us to do this. The communities that will profit from this help everybody in those communities, both public and private schools, and as long as you have a library card, you have access to so much information. It is obviously a very important investment and a good one for the state, and I would hope that we would oppose the Lamb amendment, and I would give the rest of my...yield the rest of my time to