

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, the intent is that that would be the only project we would spend money on until we had this project satisfactorily completed.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator Wehrbein, has the committee given any consideration to combining this rather large project, and I understand it's a large project, but have you given any consideration to combining that with a larger initiative to, in fact, revise our data collection systems, our data storage systems, and to hopefully bootstrap this program into something that turns out to be a little bit more than just smarter computers that know that we've reached the year 2000? Why would we not do that?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: It's my understanding that the...we've had consultants on this project that this needs to be done and...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ..that we are very concern...and the Appropriations Committee was very concerned that we did not want to go beyond what we had to do and that what you're suggesting was...that's one of the reasons it's Information Technology. It's not specific to this, but we also want to be sure that this is the process we will do first and not broaden that.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, but, Senator, in the process of making our computers smarter so that they know what the year 2000 is when you punch it in on a keyboard, if the possibility existed that at the same time we could make other changes in our data collection system that would later save us money and effort, why should we offer an amendment now...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You mean throwing out the whole computer system and starting over, if that would be cheaper?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, no, not starting over, Senator, necessarily, but why should we preclude the opportunity to use this 30 million dollars in perhaps a synergistic fashion and achieve more than just a computer that can recognize the year 2000?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, as I said earlier, we were really concerned about scope creep and that's the...I don't know