

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Chairmar, members of the body. I'm going to follow along, Senator Wehrbein, if I might, ask you a couple questions.

SENATOR WILL: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: First of all, I have to, before I ask you a question, I have to tell you that I'm very concerned about the removal of the 309 Task Force funds, you might well expect. The...those funds are wholly inadequate at the present time and to take more money out of them is certainly going to have a long-term effect because we're now so far behind on the monies that we need over a couple hundred million dollars and this is going to even make the situation worse. I think you're probably well aware of that. AND I understand that the money has to come from somewhere, but it bothers me quite a bit to see the amount of money that's allocated into that fund to be reduced by that amount and to put us, in fact, in a much more dangerous position with some of our facilities. 'Cause our task force has looked at some of these buildings and there is a great deal of work that needs to be done and this is going to be certainly set back by taking these funds out. I know you understand that and I'm sure you appreciate it and I'm not sure what you can do about it, but it, in fact, is...needs to be noted for the record that that is going to have a tremendous effect on the upkeep of many of these state buildings and we may, in the long term, be losing rather than winning. But getting back to a question, somewhat follows along with what Senator Bromm was talking about, except...and you have some experts here that can fill you in on this if you need it. I'm just concerned. I realize this is 1996 and this has to be in place by the year 2000. Is there any...has there been any discussion or does anybody have any knowledge as to whether as more people become involved in updating this equipment that there maybe, in fact, be some competition and the prices might in fact be more competitive? Or is it, in fact, a case that you can only look to a singular company that supplies these computers that would in fact be updating and getting them on line for the year 2000?