

They're antiquated in many varieties of ways, not only from the standpoint that they won't recognize four digits, but also from the standpoint that sometimes we can't get information out of them at all. We collect information in ways that makes it literally unavailable to us. We collect information and store it in a myriad of different ways so that there is no uniform way to retrieve it. We do all of those things in kind of a hodgepodge way. At least that's my understanding of our current system. We are talking about patching that system so that that system is still whole and will work. I think we need to ask ourselves why. Why would we not also potentially take this opportunity to reform that system and make it into something more unified and more workable? And maybe at the same time, we will, of course, spend \$30 million. Maybe we would even spend \$31 million, but we would have gotten something out of it other than computers that would just instead of recognizing two numbers and making them recognize four. I don't see why we shouldn't do that. I don't see why we should have such a very, very narrow focus on this issue even though it is a necessary issue. I guess I understand the concern of the Appropriations Committee that somehow you get a program that is going to run out of control and you don't quite ever see the end of the tunnel, and I understand their concern about that. I see that they are going to maintain a tight rein over what is going to be spent and how it is going to be spent and I appreciate their concern in that regard, but I don't think they ought to limit themselves nor ought we to limit ourselves, as a body, to such a narrow focus as is presented in Senator Wehr...in Senator Wehrbein's amendment. My understanding from talking with the fiscal staff is that we've already been spending money on this, we've already spent over \$200,000 if what they told me is correct, and I believe it is. If you read the fiscal note, we are going to spend almost \$5.8 million in just one year. I found that a little bit hard to believe, especially since the...we weren't even going to have a plan until January 1st, 1997, but I understand it is possible to spend money that fast. I guess I am a little bit interested in what we would spend that money on, and that we get as much as possible for that money when it is spent. So I will reiterate that I'm opposed to Senator Wehrbein's amendment. I don't know whether we will be able to do more and get more out of our money, but I do not wish, quite frankly, to maintain as narrow a focus as the Wehrbein amendment would force us to do.