

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, friends all. I fully recognize that at this time of the night many of us would rather be watching the Nebraska basketball game than sitting in here continuing on with legislation. But for those of us who have remained here faithfully to attend to legislative business, let me say thank you and that I appreciate your attention. I think many of the challenges of this bill are being worked out, and I think we should be able to move this bill on tonight without an excessive amount of dialogue. For my part, I will be somewhat brief and, unlike some of my colleagues, that's easy for me. I would call your attention to one of the handouts that has my initials on it, DP, and it starts with chronology of Associations of Legislature with Nebraska Library Commission. The reason that I share this particular piece of information with you is to draw to your attention the opportunities that the Library Commission had or could have taken advantage of to come forward with legislation enabling the contract that was finally let. The first thing that's listed there is a memo to Martha Gadberry from the Policy Research Office from Chris Hoy of the Department of Economic Development. In the memo which is in regard to a proposal to create a subscriber base computer information network which is in effect what we have now, in Section 4, recommended procedure, the procedure recommendation for public sector responsibilities as it's listed is (a) consent to providing public domain information through a gateway in the manner required by the network manager. I would read that consent to provide public domain information to mean that consent needed to be given by the legislative body. (B) of that states to set policy governing procedures, again, setting policy would be a responsibility of the Legislature. And (c), provide oversight, again, that in essence is what we are talking about in this legislation and the amendment. And (d), regulate pricing and service and, again, that is what we are asking for. I might interject at this point that in dealing with this issue I have not heard anyone say that we have a problem with what Nebrask(at) Interactive is currently doing. I have yet to hear anyone saying that they're not doing a good job. That isn't in question. The question is a policy issue, simply a policy issue and was a decision made without the Legislature having that policy decision made? An addendum to this memo states attachments, Kansas enacting legislation. For those who may be interested and Curt Bromm, Senator Bromm has already pointed it out, Kansas had enacting legislation before Kansas put together