

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Crosby, Senator Bromm, I'd like to ask you a series of questions if I may, Senator Bromm.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Bromm, will you respond?

SENATOR BROMM: Yes, I will.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I just want to quickly ask some questions to get a feeling for the dimensions of this. First of all, with respect to the existing contract, I believe you indicated and I guess I should add also the contracts between the various agencies and is it the Library Commission who is contracting with them, all of those contracts can be legally terminated so that there's no problem with respect to damages or any default or we're clear on that part of it. Is that right?

SENATOR BROMM: First of all, on the...there is only one major contract with a nonstate entity and that is the contract between the Library Commission and Nebrask(at) Interactive which is at tab 6 in the book. And that contract very clearly provides that if there is legislation passed which prohibits such a contract that it can be terminated. That is cause for termination. I have spoken with representatives of the private company today. I am assured that with January 31, '98, termination date there will be no claim against the state for damages for cutting off this last two years. And I have asked them to put that in writing, and I would hope to have that before Select File. The interagency contracts between like the Secretary of State and the Library Commission I think legally we have the authority to have some impact on what those contracts can do and the termination of those contracts. I'm not worried about the legality of those.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The second question, with regard to the scope of what we're dealing with, we set fees for a lot more than just certain state agencies. For example, being in the title business I'm very much aware of fees out of the register of deeds office. And this same kind of problem, could it not, would it not exist with respect to those types of fees? And it seems like the definition of public records has to do with public records of state agencies versus a more expanded view of the problem. Or am I not linking up somewhere? Let me give you a specific example. Fees set by a register of deeds for access to information in their office, to the extent that those kinds