

look at the turnaround even with mail, the postage charges, getting it in and getting it out, not having an office or a state agency where we can walk into and get the kinds of services that we need. I will tell you that there would be a, and has been, a huge outcry in western Nebraska, thinking that these services are going to be interrupted or terminated. We have some businesses...

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR HILLMAN: I will continue at a later time. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Madam President, I would yield my time to Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Madam President, members of the body, I appreciate this opportunity. I felt it appropriate and asked Senator Bromm to share some of his time to speak a little bit at this time for a couple of reasons, one of which is that I became interested, though not very involved, in this issue at the time... last July, when the news articles broke in the paper. And up until that time I was always sure, and this goes back to my days on Government Committee when we did in fact, from time to time, set fees, change fees and establish fees, that the body of the Legislature here are the people who make all the rules, and the responsibilities to the rest of the agencies of government, the entities of government are to follow those rules insofar as they are spelled out in law by the body of the Legislature. And I saw the newspaper article and I went and checked and, sure enough, the indication, the directions were still in statute as to what was to be done in extending fees to other methods of access other than hard copy or paper. The primary issue tonight, in my mind, is which entity of the state of Nebraska is responsible for establishing the fees to provide public information, for the most part, to the public. The argument is not what those fees are, the issue is not who provides a service, but the issue is who...what group in the state of Nebraska makes the rules. And my contention is that the body of the Legislature makes the rules. Privatization is not an issue in 1375 tonight. And I'm not so sure it's going to