

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...and asked about the...well, (inaudible), asked about the folding it in, I think the intent of the Chamber Automation Committee is to allow those who prefer to stay as they are. If they want to do everything in longhand, fine. The problem in not buying all of the hardware at the same time, in the case a senator changes their mind and wants to go to the hardware side, is that hardware changes dramatically over short periods of time in this field. We can buy the equipment today that does the job well into the future with the amount of information capacity we need here.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time. Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. The laptops won't make you smarter. They won't make it any easier to decide whether you ought to vote for LB 106. They won't make it any easier to decide what to do with state aid to schools, but sooner or later the need for information and the society that we live in will force us to upgrade to computers instead of using these bill books. The demand for people to have information will not cease. Much of the same argument could be made for photocopiers and for all sorts of other document things that we have to handle the information. What's important about this is that we're not buying all the computers right now to do this because I, for one, am very uncomfortable about doing that. What is important is that you put in place at this point if you're going to have the option of putting computers on people's desk unless you're willing this year to say, absolutely I do want one, and you only wire part of the Chamber, for example, or you only buy some of the equipment that you're not going to be able to change your mind later on. That we're going to probably do this once and it's so much better to wire the Chamber and to get the equipment to begin to do that and this is what the \$79,000 a year is basically to keep our flexibility to automate the Chamber. And I can foresee the time which will come when somebody is going to say, look, I don't care for one of these crazy things on my desk, I don't want one, I want the books where I can scribble on it, the screens are too small or whatever is going to be the case. We shouldn't buy a computer and set it on your desk if nobody is going to use it. What a waste of time, effort, and money. But my guess is that more than a few of you will get hooked on being able to use that system and it will be quicker