

and easier and you'll be a little more organized, but don't expect it to make your job and make you smarter because that computer won't. All it's going to do is give you the ability to be better, not make you better. And I think in the long run we're going to wish that we had wired the Chamber for automation. We'll see other legislatures who have already done it. We're going to say, well, why in the world didn't we do it? The real cost in terms of these units is the software. It's how sophisticated do you want the machine to be. Buying the machine itself is relatively an inexpensive proposition. It's the software that you put into it that costs us so much. We'll be able to make some decisions on how sophisticated we want them to be. They could just be a dummy screen where they just have certain things that come up and it's just a display. I don't think you're going to be satisfied with that. I think you'll want the ability to search for amendments, to have printed amendments so instead of running around our desks saying which amendment are we on, with the push of one button that we can do right here, right now, you can find out what that amendment is. But again, it's an investment, it's a small investment to make this place a better legislative body. My only hope is that we could enter the twentieth century before we leave it. And quite frankly, that's the choice that you're going to have right now. And so I know that it's going to be hard to go back and say we spent money on ourselves but, quite frankly, if any of you have been using your e-mail and your other capabilities, people are amazed and say, gee, why is this new, we thought everybody was doing this, or what a great way to contact people. That will be the same thing here in a few years. It's like having that photocopier over there in the corner. You'll just take it for granted. It's like having the fax machine in the Clerk's office. We use it all the time. We take it for granted. The same thing will happen with Chamber automation.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: And I don't think that you ought to force everybody to have a laptop on their desk, but you probably should give the people the opportunity to use it if they want to. And so I know it's a small investment to begin with and it will be real easy to stand up and complain about the Legislature and being spendthrifts and all those other things that we're accused of from time to time. But for the best of the institution, eventually we're going to become automated. It's a