

with the small cities that Senator Maurstad was referring to, and as we're asking them to evaluate and cut back and consolidate, I would like for us to go ahead with the automation program but eat the costs out of our budget. In other words, the Executive Board will decide where we would take monies from the Legislative Council's budget in order to fund that 79,000 dollars. Then, next year, after the Executive Board has actually made a decision, because at this point the Executive Board has not yet made a decision as to what to do, once that decision is made this summer or whenever it may be then if we need to put General Fund dollars into it that would be an area for discussion that we could have in the biennial budget that comes up next year and then we can, as in all the counties, cities, schools, we then can look at all of our priorities and say, yes, we want to do this and we'll cut this over here to make room for it and what have you. So instead of doing the General Fund dollars now, we would wait. We would simply eat the...if the Executive Board wanted to continue, they could do so. We would pay for the costs out of the dollars that we presently have in our budget and then we would look at what we need to do for the future of the automation project next time...next year in the biennial budget. We may be able to do all of it within the confines of what we have. We may have to add some General Fund dollars and we may, when we do General Fund dollars, detract...reduce elsewhere so we're setting a good example. That's what this motion is for and, again, I want to emphasize this motion to reconsider, if you do so, does not stop the automation project. What I want to do is say that we don't do the General Fund appropriation this year. We wait for the Executive Board to decide what they're going to do; give them...obviously they have the authority now to continue on our behalf in the interim. We use whatever dollars we can to take care of that within the current budget that we have and we come back next year in the biennial budget and sort out where we need to go, how much it will be and how we're going to get there. And I would yield whatever...Senator Coordsen, would you appreciate any of the opening at this point? I don't know if you were going to say a few words or not. If you were, sir, I would give you some of the opening.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Well, thank you. I wasn't going to say a great deal in support of your motion, but, as I indicated... Thank you, by the way, Senator Bernard-Stevens. As I indicated yesterday when we discussed this amendment to 1189 that the