

what is going on in 1375, and it isn't just a question of privatization. It's a question of the Legislature setting fees as we have wrangled so many times on this body to do over just the simplest or the minimum raising of fees. And the reason we do that, of course, is because we have the responsibility for providing information and compiling information and keeping information and keeping records for the taxpayers, and we use their money to do that. So that's really what this is all about, that we need to develop and we need to decide who is going to be involved with dissemination of that public taxpayer paid information and records. And then we need to decide what actually are we going to pay someone who wants to...or are we going to charge someone for access to those records and what is a fair price for that payor to pay for the taxpayer records and information. And it comes down to the fact that I think those who are first concerned and my concern and I'm sure Senator Bromm's and many others who are on this bill concern is that there should not be an extraordinary profit being made on those kinds of records that our taxpayer dollars keep up. And so that's really what we're talking about. I support privatization. I always have. I'd like to see some of our prisons get into privatization and save some money. And that's really the bottom line. If indeed when either government can do things more efficiently or do them at a lesser rate of cost to them, that's when privatization steps in. It doesn't step in to automatically allow someone the sole provision of information to become rich to make an extraordinary profit. So that's what we're talking about. As I said on General File, wealth is really at the heart of this battle and how that wealth should be acquired and at what expense to the state it should be acquired.

SENATOR COORDSEN: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: But I do support this amendment. I don't think it's \$50,000 that can be expended. We have a wonderful Legislative Research and computer staff and, in fact, they have given us a wealth of knowledge already on this subject. I have been told that to access a record should be cheaper than acquiring it through the paper manner, and somewhere around 14 cents has been told that once you have the format set up that the actual dissemination is very cheap. So I support the amendment and then would support...

SENATOR COORDSEN: Time.