

isn't a monument to how state government rewards creativity. We keep hearing about wanting creativity, but this is how we treat it. It seems to me we are trying to assert some leadership over access to public records. Good. I think the information age has been around for a year or two. I think Nebraska has been the center of telecommunications for a year or two. I understand that there was ambiguity and I do say ambiguity about what should or should not have been done in this instance. It probably could have been better handled, but the fact of the matter is for all of us who hear the word "privatization" and who believe in free markets, what we have is a state agency which has entered into a private, a contract with a private provider which has done an absolutely outstanding job of putting together a product that is desired in the marketplace at a price that people are willing to pay for it. And now we are rethinking it all. I am opposed to the Chambers amendment to the amendment because it would, if you take out the words "except as specified in Section 4 of this act," you gut Section 4 because Section 4, by definition, deals with a fee greater than provided by law because the fee provided by law in Section 4 is zero. I don't, as a matter of public policy, want to make the statement that we are opposed to profit. I am sensitive to a concern I have heard expressed by Senator Chambers about people having access to their own records. I think the records which government has on us we ought to be able to access at cost. That's government serving the people, but we totally blink and ignore all of the free market use that is made of information in the age of information and technology, and how important it is to the world and access to it, and how willing people are to pay for data and for information. And I think the task force contemplated by LB 1375 is a group that can deal with that kind of a distinction, but the bottom line I think is if we want to assert our leadership over this issue, then we should understand that the parade is underway and we can't stop it. We need to run to catch up. And in running to catch up, we ought not see whether we can throw a wrench into the gears and bring the working process to a halt. Rather, we ought to ensure that the existing process which is working, which is delivering a product which people are grateful for and pleased to pay for as demonstrated by the volume, that that process is allowed to go forward and that the ever-increasing building of the database and public access and electronic access to public information be allowed to go forward. And then when we, so to speak, get it all sorted out...