

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 13, 2000 LB 1217

that it may be two or three years before this is all ready to go. And so how...how we going to do about it? We can stand up, pound our chest and complain, or we can do something about it and try to have a corrective action. The trouble is it, and Senator Wehrbein knows, it's going to get expensive. And you can either pay fines or you can take the fine money and invest it in to make sure that the system works and, unfortunately, that's what we may wind up doing. But we do need some corrective plan. We've got to have somewhere somebody present to us a plan and if they can't we have to do it ourselves and that's going to be very, very hard to do. So I guess at this point in time I think that we need to go along and continue to keep this as a front burner issue. It's going to cost us a lot of money in the future if we don't begin to get some handle on who's supposed to be taking care of the system. I just wanted to let you know that the letter has been written. I think we ought to look at when Senator Brown's bill comes up, which needs to get done, there's some customer service pieces in there that we need to get started to be put in place, but without the computer working we're still going to get fined. And the only reason we're not getting fined for the SDU is because I don't think they can legally fine us twice. I don't think they can do that. I think they can fine us once. But we still need to go ahead and do the central...the centralized Disbursement Unit and centralized collection but, at the same time, somebody has really, really been asleep at the wheel here and I don't know. So we find them? What are you going to do? We're going to complain about it. That's the reason we need to formulate some plan as to how we're going to take control of this area. And hiring consultants may help us. My guess is it may confuse us as well because you're going to get contradictory information and the same system is still going to be put in place. So I would hope that we can try to develop some plan to correct this. Can't do it in a budget bill. You're going to have to do it in a substantive bill somewhere or you're going to have to go and, quite frankly,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...Senator Crosby probably had a good...a good remedy, you start with the top. You go to the Governor and say, this is a priority of ours and we think there's some