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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 279 last year and, to be quite honest with you, as I look back, I don't remember why. As I said, maybe it's time that we just go ahead and get it over with and do it. I am thoroughly convinced, however, that it is going to cost us in the long run because it is going to...in other states it has proven that it's cut down on registration. But I have a proposal, and it's just a verbal proposal and something that I would like to suggest to the Legislature, which I have suggested before in the Transportation Committee, and that is for the county treasurers. Their biggest complaint has been, all along, the handling of the plates, the storage of the plates and how much they could save if they only had to do it once every six years instead of once every three years. Here's a proposal that can be done, Department of Corrections says they could handle it, that the treasurers never have to touch a plate, never have to touch a plate. They pump into their computer Senator Janssen's name, when he comes to the treasurer, pays his taxes; it goes across the computer to Department of Corrections; they prepare the plates and mail them out right from there. They have the storage, they have the personnel, and they have the machinery to do it. It could save the treasurers a whole lot of money. I don't think the treasurers want to do that, to be quite honest with you. In fact, one treasurer mentioned to me, well, them inmates will be sticking nasty notes and putting dirty things in the...in with the plates when they mail them out. The fact of it is, the inmates have been putting them plates in envelopes for many, many years now, and I've talked to Department of Motor Vehicles and they said they have never had any complaints about anything being put in them envelopes with the plates. I think it would be very simple and very easy for us to have the Department of Motor Vehicles contract with the Department of Corrections to just take over the whole job except for the collecting of the taxes, and with our modern day computers and e-mail, could be done that way. I don't have an amendment, I don't have a bill to do that, and I don't know that we need one, but that is something else to think about that would help us a whole lot of that's the problem. Department of Corrections has the storage, they have the equipment, and they have the manpower that a plate would never have to go to a county courthouse. I think we should look at that. Thank you.