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away from God knows who. We are here where the television cameras can watch, where the people can watch us in the balconies and discuss the issues. That is what we are here for. If we are going to break down in subcommittees or whatever and go out in the little room someplace to make our decisions in groups and then come back here like a bunch of sheep, follow the goat that happens to be the leader at that point in time into the truck, if that is what the people of the State of Nebraska want us to do then we might as well go back home and let the leaders have their meetings and then when everything is all settled we can come back in here and punch the buttons the way we are told to punch them. That is not what we are here for. We are here to discuss it right here on this floor in this room. That is our job. That is what we were elected to do. I've got no objection to people getting together under the balcony and trying to round up votes. That is fine. That is different than what we are talking about here, seems to me. If we aren't willing to be right up front about it and discuss the issue right out here in the open. . . .

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute.

SENATOR VICKERS: Then I am very reluctant to start discussing them in the smoke filled rooms. I think that we ought to be aware of exactly the precedent that we are setting. But I also point out that if we had simply started discussing the bill when it first came up we would probably have it two-thirds discussed by this time. Then we wonder sometime why we are in such low esteem with the public when we operate like this.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I take exception to what Senator has just said. Relative to this meeting that we had intended to have at 1:00 p.m. I remind him that the Speaker, the last two days, had called a meeting of various people of the body to talk over a disagreement about a bill. Now did you get up, Senator, then at that point and raise the open meetings law? No, you didn't. I didn't hear you say a word. I am serious and conscientious in trying to draw differences together just as the Speaker was trying to do the last two days and if that is wrong, then I stand corrected. It is no clandestine meeting whatsoever. If you will look at the two sides that are going to be participating in that, I don't know how you can call it a clandestine meeting, Senator. I am really reluctant to accept what you have said. We are not trying to close anybody out whatsoever, but we are trying to come to a solution to this that we would not have to spend the time, and maybe we won't. If that