

we've told all of the agencies, for the most part is, with hope, with a little help and a little luck on next year's budget, as we go through and make adjustments to the biennium budget, there might be some money left...monies left in for those particular things. And again it's not just the state auditor, it's in health and human services, it's in accountability, it's the State Patrol needs some certain aspects of it. There are a lot of people that need computers and need updating for efficiency. There might be a chance to do that next year, or, if not, the next biennium. But I think the third point is the one that kind of sticks in my craw just a little bit, and that's the point of the auditor's office's performance at this particular point. What the auditor came in and asked the Appropriations Committee for was money for computers. That was not the real reason. The real reason was that the auditor wanted to free up some people so that they would be able to do performance audits. And I won't get into all the details of the performance audits' track record of the auditor's office so far, but I will go as far to say that that particular committee meeting, where a letter was made public by a county official in one of the counties in the State of Nebraska and saying, look what we've uncovered, there are some improprieties here, the press was invited in, and it was made headlines across the state. The problem with that was there were no charges yet filed. And the problem with that was there's an ongoing investigation. The problem with that was there still are no charges filed, and yet the person was made to look like a criminal in front of all Nebraskans, particularly in front of the county of which that particular person was an official. Not only was it ill-advised, it was...it was a complete lack of judgment. I'm sure the state auditor, in discussing with him not too many days ago, I know he feels somewhat bad about that, he says we've learned a lot. But the point is if we're going to do performance audits, one of the...there are two things that we've been told. Number one, you don't want necessarily a person like a state auditor, no matter who it is, or an agency such as that to conduct the performance audits. It's much better, say the states that do have the performance audits, to have it done by an independent group. I know that the Executive Board, during the summer, is going...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...to be looking at performance audits. What is the best way for the State of Nebraska to have