

make my decision on whether to do that or not, I have something to base that decision on other than what you have told me a meeting, or what I hear or read in the newspaper, on the radio, or TV. I want to have something in front of me in this plan that talks about exactly how you're going to do this. And I would like to even allow my staff, or the fiscal staff, or the research staff, here at the Legislature, some opportunity to be involved in these meetings, so that they can report back to us on a timely basis, whether that would...these meetings would be held weekly, or monthly, or whatever, that they would be able to come back to us and say this is what is going on, and these are some of the proposals, and this is the direction it's taking. So when we get this plan, December 1st, we've had some opportunity to have some time before that to really know kind of which direction this restructuring effort is taking. I don't see any reason for the exemption, since they don't need it now and they're not really doing anything differently, except they're getting a couple of the department heads together, which is a good thing. But they don't need an exemption, I don't think, from the public meeting laws. And I'm not sure why they've asked for that. If anyone on the floor can let me know why they think they need it, because they don't need it now. And if they don't need it now, and they're not doing anything different, other than getting the department heads together, then I would like to, instead of putting up a wall to everybody, say we would like to have you involved. In fact I have a series of letters, that anyone is free to look at, that was sent out to the State Auditor's Office, asking them to come in and be involved in this process, since that would be a very important office to be involved in this restructuring effort, because you're setting up this huge financial part of these departments. And yet when he asked to be more involved they said, wait until the legislation passes and then we'll let you know. So right there they're kind of shutting a door on an individual, an elected individual. He is the elected State Auditor, we are the elected Legislature...legislators in Nebraska. The elected officials should be as involved in this process as these appointees of the Governor. Why are we being shut out? Even though they don't need this language, they've put it in here as kind of a...and I kidded, I said it's the Hillary Clinton clause, kind of a barrier to those individuals who would want to be involved, who would want to know what's going on, be knowledgeable of the process. By putting in this exemption from the public meeting laws they're essentially saying, keep out,