

appropriately here. And, although I'm supportive of the general thrust, I have real concerns about the Appropriations Committee of the Legislature doing this evaluation.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Witek.

SENATOR WITEK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the body, I think what's really occurred here...when I came into the Legislature, four years ago, I had discussions with several of the senators, including senators on the Exec Board. And through the electronic benefit discussions that we went through last year on the welfare discussion, and even before that time, on the need for the Legislature to have a committee or some type of a group that would get together and kind of help with the technology transitions that the rest of the world is going through. It kind of fell on deaf ears, I think more because everybody was just so busy with everything else and maybe not really paying as much attention, I think, as leadership should have during that time period. And now we come to a time here where we've been caught off guard, clearly, that's what's occurred with 1375, and now with 1190. The executive branch of this government has taken the ball and run with it, in many areas, I think, taken authority that they were never given from the Legislature, and gone ahead and, in that vacuum that was created by the Legislature in us not reacting to these questions and these concerns, they went ahead and are instituting policies and programs within the executive branch of government without any legislative oversight whatsoever. There was an attempt, in 1375, to reign some of that back in. But now you find it again in 1190, it's almost like 1375, just when we start reigning it back in a little bit with 1375 on some small program between contracts that were signed with outside sources, now we have the potential of 1190 occurring at the same time, giving \$30 million to the Department of Administrative Services to do some type of updating on the technology, and the executive branch of government not really knowing how they're going to go ahead and do this. So I also agree with Senator Withem, there needs to be some oversight somehow from the legislative branch, not because we want to have oversight as a legislative branch of government, but because there needs to be some...I see us as a liaison between the executive branch and the people of the state. And there needs to be some input there from the people of the state of Nebraska on how these technology changes are going to occur, and whether it's going to be for their benefit, or it's going to