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PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. For discussion, Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there have been, as I said before, there have been assertions on the floor that there is some sort of a deal that's been made with a private entity and I just want to make sure that everyone understands that that is not the case, that no...no deal has been reached. There are not that many private entities that do this, this work, and when the task force was interested in talking to an entity that had been doing it, the decision was made to contact Lockheed Martin, who does it for Colorado, because Colorado is close and it seemed to make some sense. Lockheed Martin has, as you have heard from some of the comments on the floor, has had, I would say, probably fairly good results in terms of the fiscal management, but certainly very poor results in terms of their customer relations and how people feel about being able to get through to them and talk to them. And so the fact that Lockheed Martin came in and talked to the task force was only a function of their being one of the few companies that...private companies that's out there and proximity. But there are some reasons to keep it within government in terms of using this as an issue to push forward our use of technology to improve our ability to deal expeditiously with money matters. And we have already started doing that and there are...there are probably some good reasons. I've had a number of people who have said to me, this is a function of government and we should keep it within government. There are those who believe that we should explore privatization in many different ways for the sake of efficiency. And so the original legislation was broad, would allow anyone to respond to an RFP and then the selection would be made by that entity that was the most efficient and made the best response to the RFP. But certainly if the will of the body is to keep it within a governmental entity then I think that that makes some sense and that...that we should consider it. But I...but I really do think that we need to talk a little bit more about what...what kinds of limitations this puts on us about being able to choose the most efficient method. But I would like to respond to the people who have talked about there being some prejudice about privatizing or privatizing it with a certain vendor, that that is not the case and, because of some of the concerns in terms of