

the policy of this state that the formation of public policy is public business and may not be conducted in secret. Every meeting of a public body shall be open to the public in order that the citizens may exercise their democratic privilege of attending and speaking at meetings of public bodies, except as otherwise provided by the Constitution of the State of Nebraska, federal statutes,"...and then some section numbers that are references. We're not saying that members of a public body can't go out of state to a national convention, or they can't go out of state to visit with their counterparts from other states, whether it be Bicentennial Commissions, or whatever. What we are saying is that when they take official action on those meetings they take it within the State of Nebraska. You cannot have an official meeting of a public body that is supposed to be a meeting open to the public and have it in Timbuktu. How in the world are Nebraska citizens going to be able to respond or be aware of those political bodies' actions if they are having it in New York City? This section of the statutes, if you'll look at it, that we are amending, back on page 4(4), it says, "No public body shall, for the purpose of circumventing the provisions of Sections 84-1408 to 84-1414, hold a meeting in a place known by the body to be too small to accommodate the anticipated audience. No public body shall be deemed in violation of this section..." and so forth. We are in a section where we are attempting to say to the public bodies of this state, commissions and so forth, you hold your meetings so that they are available to the public. Now to turn right around and say, well, but you can hold a meeting that you are going to actually take action in a public meeting outside of the State of Nebraska is ridiculous. It is certainly not to the intent of any of the Chapter 84 requirements. I don't see how this body could stand up and say to an examining board, single them out as one public body and say you've got to meet within the State of Nebraska, but county commissioners, or anybody else out there can meet wherever they damn well please, that makes no sense to me whatsoever. They can meet out there, they can drink cocktails with their counterparts. They can have all kinds of great national meetings. I was a member of the public power district board of directors. I know we went to those national meetings. This is not saying you can't go to those national meetings. It is saying that while you are in Los Angeles, California you can't get your board of directors together and your manager and hold a meeting and raise the rates. That is what it is saying.