

right, this is February 6, we have got 24, 25 days to be done by senators in the middle of a session with five, six, seven hundred bills to consider. How genuine is that as a fact-finding process? I would suggest to you that it is written in a way that assures practically only one outcome, or, if anything, is simply going to undo the ability to make credible fact-finding that will be available to people across this state. I have had some experiences with this kind of format. Last year we had the task force on ag land valuations. Now, you may not like the results and you may like the results, I don't know. However, I can tell you that that was one question that is far more simple than the questions in this Initiative 300 and that took us two and a half months of meeting at night across the way with senator members. If you have senator members who are going to do this study right, you can't do it in three weeks. If anything, you need people that are going to spend time and energy on it. You need to take a swing around the state, more than one, perhaps. You need to get some research background and I think you need some private citizens who have more of their time available than we do. I also think we need to get it out of these halls where everything in here looks like an inside straight in a poker hand played over at the Nebraska Club. If you are going to have credibility here, you have got to reach outside this body to put it on some other basis than some kind of negotiated, legislative, heavily lobbied compromise, or whatever. You are going to have to at least separate your fact-finding from your deal making and the fact-finding should be done, I think, in a different manner. Why do I suggest the time line of March 25th and why is that a progress report? Number one, I could be wrong, but I think there is a lot of information that is valid and will be difficult to get. However, we need to know on a cutoff date if we are not going to get a factual set of recommendations, a factual finding, if you will, so that we can go back to the wrangling and go back to the deal making and go back to what it is that this body does well. And March 25th gives us about 22 days before the end of the session to do what it is this body loves to do. I can tell you, however, as somebody who has been in this business and tried to make this process work, the more time you have for fact-finding, the less wrangling you have later on. The more you get a shared understanding of the way it really is, the more likely solutions will recommend themselves to you. The more fact-finding you have, the better off your decision making