

Merging those two ideas, one would have a very difficult time explaining why Lincoln's industrial growth has come to a halt because that is exactly what has happened. In the last two years there has not been a single new industry in the City of Lincoln, and in the year previous to that there was one, I believe. However, in the years previous to that three year period, in the three years previous to that we had thirteen new industries. Lincoln is an all American city with apparently a very high standard of living, a very high quality of life. It resides in the heart of the best business climate in the nation and yet we have a county that does not attract new industry or the diversification of existing industries. That is a cause of concern to the City of Lincoln and, of course, it's a cause of concern to the Lincoln delegation, and generally that is reflected throughout this Legislature, I would hope, and throughout the State of Nebraska because with as much as we have to offer this state seems to be standing still or perhaps losing ground in the fight to bring new industry and new economic growth to Nebraska. The Landis-Goodrich amendment seeks to reverse that by removing the disincentive of sales tax being applied to the diversification or expansion of existing or new industrial growth. One has to finally in the end accept the hard reality that economic growth is the engine of this economy. Some of us, myself included, wish that that were not so, wish that the Economics of E. B. Shoemaker that says, small is beautiful, is the best approach and immediately accessible, that we can, in fact, stop growth and bring to the forefront the approach that we need to improve the quality of our economic base rather than the quantity. And as lovely as that goal is, it also factually is simply not true. Economic growth is vital to the welfare of the state, also vital to the welfare of my city, and for that reason I urge the adoption of the amendment to LB 3. The tax base in our city and our state needs to expand. Valuations need to go up. Jobs need to be made available since the labor market changes and into the labor market is poured then new entrants, either women freed from the homemaking responsibilities or adding to their homemaking responsibilities, the young, the second income person of a family, all of those people need to be employed. If not, they provide a drain. If the economy stays the same but there is a drain in the labor market, the total cost of doing business goes down, unemployment goes up, the drain on state services go up, welfare goes up and, in fact, you lose your place vis-a-vis others, you lose your economic...economy's scale if you do not grow, and that is what LB 3 attempts to promote and that