

important to any subsequent foreign trade relations. This bill was heard by the Government Committee a few weeks ago. We had an excellent hearing. There were no opponents to this bill whatsoever. The proponents of the bill, if you look in your Bill Book, were...in addition to myself, were Secretary of State Beermann, State Treasurer Frank Marsh, a Mr. Ottoson, who has been active in the hosting of foreign visitors to our state, and also, although he could not appear, there was written testimony of support for the Protocol Act by former Mayor and former Lieutenant Governor Roland Luedtke. All of these individuals have talked with me. All of them have expressed the mandatory nature of having a protocol office in our state if we are going to promote foreign trade, if we are going to promote businesses that are operated or, in part, owned by foreign dignitaries to locate here in Nebraska, such as the Kawasaki plant and other such plants to try to get some type of economic development in the state. I would urge the passage of this bill. You might take a look at the larger sheet that I have passed out because it contains some appropriate comments, I think, from Secretary of State Beermann and from State Treasurer Marsh. Secretary of State Beermann says that he has supported the bill and cited examples of how lack of coordination has resulted in shuffled, unanswered correspondence and embarrassing breaches in customs or language. He said, we're in a global economy now, we are getting a lot of visitors who come to Nebraska for many reasons. Except for volunteers who give a lot of time and money and effort, we end up many times embarrassed. Take a look at his memo. There are a number of examples and references to where because we do not know the customs and the way to host foreign visitors we made egregious errors in the type of hosting that we do in the State of Nebraska. If we had a protocol office, this wouldn't happen. Secretary of State Marsh emphasized the importance of Nebraska business...to Nebraska business of establishing good foreign relations. He said, we didn't step out of Lincoln today, we step out in the world; let's not forget that governors come and go but global involvement goes on forever. Frankly, this bill carries a fiscal note of \$80,000. I think that's the maximum amount that this bill would cost. That was Senator Johnson's estimate last year and I have a note if you would like to see it where he said this would be the most that this program would cost. Eighty thousands dollars, to me, is the best money that this state could invest in the type of economic development and promotion of good relationships with foreign countries and with foreign dignitaries. Senator Moore, I understand, has a motion that will be following to kill this