

bill, line 13, strike the words "The Legislature shall appropriate money", and change the language to "The Legislature may appropriate money from the Protocol Office Cash Fund." What this will do is if in, for whatever reason the body would choose to pass LB 177, and then in its infinite wisdom, in between the vote on LB 177 and the vote on LB 177A, if LB 177A, you can still create the office. The Department of Economic Development could still fund the office. The Legislature could, you know, if they chose at a later date, still appropriate money. But you are actually, if you adopt this amendment, you would create a Cash Fund, DED could put money into that to pay for this. If the Governor, you know, the way the bill now reads, the Governor shall appropriate a protocol officer, now she could, underneath the language in the bill the Governor can appropriate that Bill Nichol be that protocol officer. And Bill Nichol could go over to DED and say, you know, according to Senator Coordsen and Senator Rogers and Senator Johnson, I'm going to do so much for economic development on this issue, you need to give me \$50,000. And then he can get there, if indeed he will do that much, I'm sure they'll be glad to give him the money. Also he can go to FirstTier, Ameritus, he can go to Mutual of Omaha, and he can even go to ConAgra and Mike Harper to give him money to promote Nebraska through the Protocol Office. That only makes sense to me. But you got to create the Cash Fund before Bill Nichol, or if the protocol officer is Allen Beermann or Frank Marsh, you've got to give them the Cash Fund before they can do that. And I want to mention the changes, that little word "The Legislature shall appropriate money" to "The Legislature may appropriate money" will give us some flexibility on the A bill. And, as I said, those of you that...my first amendment, the only problem you had was including the check-off boards, the check-off boards are no longer in this. All you're doing is creating a Cash Fund and allowing the Legislature some flexibility on how they want to fund this agency. And, with that, I would...as I said, this is my last amendment. I think it is fairly self-explanatory. I would just urge an up or down vote on this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, please, then Senator Baack.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I'd just call the question, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay.