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LB 431

private sector so that we can work with the private sector to maximize purchasing going on right now in Nebraska. I think this is a win-win proposition for everybody in the state, and I'd ask your support for the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Lamb, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I have a question for Senator Wesely, if he'd care to respond.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Really not about the bill, but about the change in the funding. As I recall you have, in the past, been very much interested in the telecommunications division well before it became part of the Department of Economic Development. And you touched on this briefly. I wonder if you would expand a bit, because I see that you are diverting funds from the telecommunications division in order to finance the bill, in the amount of \$125,000. Would you care to expound a bit on your problems or your change of heart in regard to telecommunications.

SENATOR WESELY: Certainly, Senator Lamb. I guess the simple response is I give up. We've tried for two years to try and get the telecommunications division to do something. They haven't hired anybody over there for two years, and they now are proposing, that is the department is proposing to eliminate the division in another piece of legislation. And we can argue that issue at that time. But in looking at it, it's clear that there is no desire to proceed. With the money, it's 143,000 is what is earmarked for that particular function. We find that we just thought there ought to be a better way to utilize that money for economic development than not do anything, as obviously where we're at. So this A bill does reduce, from that program, and put it into this effort in an attempt to try and not go back to the General Fund without having some source of the money. But essentially I just give up. It's clear that there is no desire to proceed in that area. Rather than continue to force the issue we thought we'd look for a better idea on what we could be doing.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely, would you like to close on the advancement of the bill.