

I look upon 775 and I'm looking at it very parochially. I'm a lifelong resident of Omaha and I saw what happened to my city in the late sixties and early seventies as businesses pulled out of Omaha, as businesses pulled out of downtown Omaha, as the stockyards became less and less of a factor and it was a sad occasion for me. I remember we had a family business in downtown Omaha for 90 years and in the late sixties all that was really left was the Job Corps, Brandeis, Nebraska (inaudible) Company and Union Pacific. Everybody else is pretty much gone and a few banks and it was a very, very sad thing for me to witness because of the involvement that personally my family had had in Omaha for so many years. What has happened in Omaha in the last couple of years I think can be characterized as being a boom. Omaha now is growing. Downtown Omaha is beginning to come alive again. People are working in Omaha and I believe that, at least for my city, it's good. And I also remember my Nebraska history well enough to know that there really wouldn't have been an Omaha had there not been ranchers and farmers in Nebraska that used the banks in Omaha and for their transactions that they did in the 1880s and nineties. So I do look at Nebraska as a whole and as Omaha is a part of that whole. So I look at Senator McFarland's bill and suggest to him that I am a supporter of LB 775 and I'm gratified by what has happened and the investment that has been made in Omaha and in the rest of Nebraska. But I also believe as Senator Landis suggests that there is an issue here that needs to be addressed. I certainly would not fault Union Pacific Railroad or Mutual of Omaha for taking advantage of LB 775 and also reducing the numbers of employees. I am convinced from talking to these employers that certainly in the case of Union Pacific that business decisions had been made early on move the yards out of Omaha to another location, that Mutual of Omaha was going through structural changes and business changes that were occurring and had occurred over a period of years and I am gratified, quite frankly, to see the changes that have been made to the positive with Mutual of Omaha and Union Pacific Railroads and certainly with U S West and the investment that they are making because I think it helps all of us as a state when businesses continue to grow in Nebraska and not move out. And I also believe in the investment portion of LB 775. You could see what happened with the stockyards and other industries in Omaha when they failed to invest in new equipment and to modernize. What happened is, the businesses dried up, moved out of Nebraska and moved elsewhere, so I believe in the investment aspect of LB 775 as well. We're also competing with other states that don't really have