

May 4, 1989

LB 813

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: There is another one.

CLERK: There is an amendment to your amendment.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Beyond that there are no other amendments?

CLERK: At this point that is correct.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I believe then, unless another amendment is filed, that this will be the last amendment the body will have to discuss on LB 813 on General File, and I do understand that Senator Haberman has an amendment to this particular amendment that we will be discussing as well. In essence, to bring you somewhat of a history that I don't need to do, and I won't take a large, lot of time on my opening because I think the body is well aware of what the amendment is and what we are going to be trying to accomplish this morning. But years ago, we did have a Department of Economic Development that had branch offices throughout the State of Nebraska, and the purpose was to bring economic development and what the State of Nebraska can do and what the Department of Economics can do closer and work together with the people of central and western Nebraska, particularly in our smaller communities. Many things have happened over the years with the Department of Economic Development and the Legislature, and I am well and painfully aware that many of the things the department has done in years past has not sat well with members individually in the body and there are certain decisions that have been made in the department in years gone by that have not also set well with myself. However, the department is making efforts with the present administration, we have new leadership within the Department of Economic Development, and there is a bill that is now pending that will be discussed by this Legislature this session which helps reorganize the Department of Economic Development into areas that will be more responsive and more in tune to what this body feels the department should have been doing all along. In order to help take a step forward from the step backwards, and I say step backward because over the years past the branch offices that were put out with the communities were closed, more for political reasons than anything else. During that particular time, the Department of Economic Development, I believe, floundered, but the phoenix does rise, if it is strong enough and if it is good enough, and the