

Korshoj, the one and only Senator Frank Korshoj, the Renaissance man who made the point when this issue was brought up when the Governor came forward and let loose with her state of the state address and talked about a rural Renaissance. Remember that? Do you remember that? That's a few months ago, we talked about the rural Renaissance being brought back to the State of Nebraska because we talked about our tax incentive bills and how wonderful they were for the state, only Senator Korshoj and I and others have pointed out how most of the benefits went to the larger towns in the state and that didn't sit too well with the people and so the Governor came back and tried to respond to that and said, we're going to have a rural Renaissance here and what was her rural Renaissance? Her rural Renaissance was really this amendment, these four regional offices and, frankly, as Senator, and frankly is the right term I guess to use, Senator Korshoj was right when he said that, he isn't called Frank for nothing, that the rural Renaissance program may have been great back in the Renaissance but it sure wasn't much to speak of in 1989. This is not a rural Renaissance initiative. This is an attempt to get out public relations people for the Department of Economic Development and for the administration across the state in four different locations. In terms of economic development this is not going to be the solution to many different problems that we have, the rural problems that we have. And Senator Haberman's amendment exactly strikes at the whole issue. These are towns, these four towns are four out of all of the towns that we have, selected as the sites for these when we really need to understand the need for more regional assistance, that we need to have an understanding that Hastings and Grand Island and all the other towns, Sidney and what have you, are also in need of help. And that what this ties into is a new seeds project which says we should have regional centers of growth and that those regional centers are where we should put our resources and help them build themselves up, and I say that's a mistake. I say the better course is to understand that every area in the state that wants to develop themselves, that wants to move forward is in need of and should have state assistance and I'm afraid when you start having these regional offices out there you're going to forget to help other folks out there. Now they are going to say, no, they will be on a regional basis, but I simply don't think that's the case. I think the better thing to do is to keep in mind a few other items here. Number one, that we have NBDCs, Nebraska Business Development Centers. These are now located in Omaha, Lincoln, Wayne, North Platte, Chadron, Scottsbluff, Peru and Kearney.