

business to business and you help them grow and you help them find other products, markets, services and you have ways in which to move forward in a positive sense but I simply think that you miss much of the state by not recognizing that these four areas, they've got chambers of commerce, they're big enough, they have NBDCs in North Platte and Kearney, they've already got that. This would be on top of that. And then you've got Wayne and Peru by Norfolk and Beatrice. They are great towns, they are wonderful towns, they deserve our assistance, they are getting some of our assistance. But by going and putting the resources in this manner, I think we miss the chance to do other things that are better for the whole State of Nebraska. So it's nothing against these towns, they are wonderful and good towns. It's nothing against the idea of reaching out and helping rural Nebraska. It's simply the fact, as Senator Korshoj said, this is not the rural Renaissance we're looking for. There are better programs that we need to be putting this sort of money into.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hefner, please, followed by Senator Nelson.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support the Haberman amendment and I also support the Bernard-Stevens amendment. I think this is the right way to go. We need field offices across Nebraska. Senator Wesely says, well, it won't do the job, but I feel it will. Here, when we can help some of the rural areas, well, we get to saying, well, they really don't need the help. Let me explain to you what is happening in northeast Nebraska. Every time that they need to meet with the Department of Economic Development, they've got to drive 150 to 200 miles. If we had a regional office in Norfolk, they wouldn't have to drive quite that far, only 50 or 60 or 70 miles. Here they could get the information, ponder it a while and then it may be...and then they may have to drive to Lincoln a little later on to see the head people of the Department of Economic Development. I feel that we have good leadership in the Department of Economic Development at the present time. There was a time that we were struggling. It seemed like we was changing executive directors about every year or two, but now we have good leadership in the department and let's give the Department of Economic Development the tools to work with. Four field offices across the State of Nebraska are not too much. We need them. We need to help our state go forward in economic development. We have a good start and now