

returned the kind of dividends which we frequently hear about. I have seen some dedicated individuals who worked in that department, visited with them, been in a position where, in fact, they have helped in some instances a few businesses in our area. On the other hand, the vast majority of businesses, the vast majority of individuals really cannot benefit from the Department of Economic Development's activities and I am inclined to be a little bit sarcastic and suggest that perhaps the greatest benefit to the economy from the Department of Economic Development comes from the employment of certain individuals who would not otherwise be employed, and if that's the purpose for the agency, that's fine, but I can tell you very frankly that the vast majority of the people in the State of Nebraska, if you ask them what the department did, could not identify it, would not know where to go, if you put one in every community center they wouldn't find it and I'm just at a loss I guess as to know, and I'm not quarreling with the motives of anyone who proposes what we are doing here. I'd like to see it accomplish something substantive, but when you look at the overall impact as opposed to the general population, it would seem to me that we really are not making a significant contribution. Another one of my problems is this, that the department has, in some instances, made a substantial benefit and contribution to an entity in my area only to find another agency of government carrying out their lawful responsibilities as dictated by this Legislature that comes out and creates a burden for that business which is greater than the benefit which was created by the Department of Economic Development. If you want some specific examples, I'd like to give them to you, do not want to do it here on the floor because it does not serve the purpose to impugn the good intentions of the individuals involved. It just points out the contradicting policies of state government and, therefore, I would suggest that I'm going to listen more to the debate. I'd like to have, as someone said, an office in every small town in the state, but I really have not been convinced that the department has been all that beneficial to the general population. When you contrast it with the input of business and the dedication of business and investment by business, I'm not sure that it is significant. I would, of course, be pleased if someone could correct me on that and maybe someone will and, if so, I'd be glad to change my mind. But I think rather than to talk about pie in the sky, I'd like to find someone who can say this agency did that and that and that and we created some actual benefits. At the present time I have not seen that and I do not know what will happen if