

think the new mission of the DED will be to help the middle coordinator of all those, not to control, but to help coordinate. And that needs to be done. And I think the body can agree to that. Number three, I think we need to talk about regional concept. Senator Baack will have a good amendment on 636, and I think that the body should look at it very carefully. And it is an interesting concept, it is a good amendment. But the point is, can a regional concept of economic development work hand-in-hand with field offices on the...with the DED? And the answer to that question is yes. The answer to that question, if you need regional areas doing their own thing, deciding what they need, can they work hand-in-hand with a branch office close to them that might help coordinate with the rest of the State of Nebraska? Is that a good thing to have. And the answer is yes, we can and we should begin looking at regional concepts. But we also need to keep a little finger of extension, if you wish, from the agency center in Lincoln, so that if the areas in the region do have their plan and they need help from the state, they have a place to go to, easily accessible, without coming 400 miles into Lincoln, or trying to, on the telephone, get a different bureaucrat every day with a different answer. I might also point out in closing, and I'd like to get to vote on this as soon as possible so the body can move on.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: We have tremendous things to do in the short time that we have. Senator Scofield talked about North Platte as if there were no need in North Platte. Senator Scofield, being from a railroad area that you are in Alliance, you know that North Platte needs economic development. You know that North Platte is so dependent upon the railroad we have to diversify, we're crying to diversify. And the people in North Platte do not...was not in...they were in that little white area of your map. North Platte was in the white area of your map, in the far western area of which you did not have anything close to that area. So we were in the area that you felt would be a need. Don't confuse size with economic development, it's a mistake. Thank you for the time, Senator Schellpeper.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson, please, followed by Senator Hefner, then Senator Lynch.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I would hope also that we could