

SENATOR SCOFIELD: I think when we get those cookies around here, we'll all be in a better mood. Let me just make one final point, and that is if we want to empower small communities, let me reiterate, you don't send a bunch of bureaucrats out from Lincoln who are going to build up their resumes, spend a couple of years and be gone. You got to put the money in the people that want to live in those areas, who are committed to those areas and build a human infrastructure in rural Nebraska. It would make more sense to give the money to development districts. It makes more sense to give the money to the granting process that Senator Baack is going to propose on 639, because then and only then do you help people become less dependent on government rather than more so. I think we're asking a person to go out in the field office to do a super human task. They are destined to fail from the day they go out there, particularly the ones that have the most miles to cover. They can't possibly meet all the demands that these little towns have. These little towns are in crisis, they'd all like to have you there every day helping them. And they've all got legitimate problems they'd like to have that person address. And these people, at best, will be generalists, at best they will be an experience, and they'll stay a while and they'll be gone, and you won't have done anything at all to empower that community, build skill in that community, make them more able to access grant funding or put together projects or whatever. So, if we're smart, we'll put our money out there to help train local people that have a commitment to that area, help communities cooperate in a regional fashion so that they can, in fact, insure their own futures. State government can't do that for them, it's crazy to even talk about it. But, if you must do field offices, put them where they make some sense. Senator Baack may have the rest of my time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack, you have five minutes.

SENATOR BAACK: Thank you, Senator Scofield. Mr. President and colleagues, I know that Senator Bernard-Stevens kind of said yesterday we were just having a good time in here, we weren't really serious. I was very serious about what I had to say about the Department of Economic Development, very, very serious, and it was not just having fun. But it is good to have one of your opponents stand up and say something that you can agree with. And one of the things that he said in his statement was it doesn't matter where the offices are located. I