

absolutely agree with that, it doesn't matter. They can be just as ineffective in Ord as they can be ineffective in North Platte, (laughter) as they can be ineffective in Norfolk. They can do it anywhere they're at, they can do it. They can be... (interruption). Yes, they can be here in Lincoln and be just as ineffective. I think that what they need to do maybe in some of these small, rural communities, if we want to get to them, is we just need to assign an 800 number, statewide, and then when the people, instead of having to call a regional office, I'll just call this 800 number and they'll automatically get Lincoln, instead of having to go through the middle man at the regional office and being referred to Lincoln. I think that if we're going to do economic development and we're going to help rural economic development, we have got to get to the local people. It is not going to succeed unless you have that grass-roots local support, it simply does not work. When you have a regional office and you have constant turnover in that office, they send out a fireball out to that office and he's there for two years and is gone, there is no continuity there for the local community. These offices do not do anything for local communities. I never refer any of my people to the regional office of DED. I use the Panhandle Area Development Council, those people are there, they live in those communities, they know what those communities need. And those are the people that are effective in my area. The regional office of DED is not that effective. There has been much too much turnover. People don't even know who they are talking to. It changes over every couple of years and there is no continuity there. Another thing that was said was that they could work hand-in-hand with the regional councils. If we have these regional offices, they could work hand-in-hand with the area development councils that are there. I have found that in the past that has never been the case. They have been a hindrance rather than a help to one another, and they do not work cooperatively in these areas. So I don't think that this is the thing that we want to do. I would like to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a couple of questions, if he's here.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes.

SENATOR BAACK: Now in your amendment, as I read the amendment all it does is talk about money, it doesn't talk about what they're going to do. Right? What is going to be their purpose?