

we going to change that when we do 639? I'd like to know. I don't want to pump a bunch of money into something that I don't see a change coming in. I think the things that I am proposing in 639 will point in the direction of making some changes, and making them target rural economic development, which they have not done in the past. I'd appreciate some of those answers when you speak. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I would be...first I will respond to Senator Baack's question. There is always two things that I have said this year, beginning of the session that would be quite a privilege to do. And both of them have come through, and that is at some point get on the floor and have a good discussion with quick minds and what have you. And that has happened quite often this session of the Legislature, particularly when we get discussing with Senator Chambers some of the issues when you are discussing issues that you may have philosophical differences, and of course Senator Baack is one of those I'd hold in that department as well, as well as all the members of the body. But Senator Baack makes a bunch of points that are very, very good. And to respond to what the role and mission needs to be and how it is defined, I think Senator Baack would be the first one to say that one of the problems that we, in the Government Committee, faced when 639 came before the committee was the Legislature began having difficulty with what the Department of Economic Development was doing in previous administrations and some within this administration. One of the things that we in committee, and particularly I who was new to the committee became very quick to discover was that the Legislature, in its own way, would define an area of problem that it saw and would carve out its solution in DED. Then another group of senators would come at a different time and say, I don't like what they did in my area over here, I don't like that so I'm going to...I think that these departments within DED should be consolidated, we need to add another department over here, and pretty soon you had a Legislature mandating in DED the way DED was going to handle its operations. It's kind of like the federal government trying to handle the military in the Vietnam War and thinking the government can solve the problem.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bernard-Stevens, may I interrupt you again. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold the conversation down. Thank you,