

Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I always like those questions, may I interrupt, and then the gavel is already going. Some time I'd like to just say, no, I'm on a roll,...

PRESIDENT: Okay.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...but go ahead. My point being the following, this Legislature, throughout the year, has wounded DED, whether we like what they are doing or not, has made it difficult. And 639 is an attempt to reconstruct what the DED areas are going to do. Senator Baack says, do we have any assurances that the role and mission, what it's going to be? Is there anything written in the bill? And he knows the answer to that question, of course there is not. Just like there is nothing written into statute, I suspect, that would say exactly what is a state senator to do. And where we have people saying that the Department of Economic Development, we don't have faith in that, we don't have faith over here and so on, I think I could almost turn this discussion around and say you know that is exactly what the people say about the Legislature. They sit in their chairs, they don't do anything, they go up to the Nebraska Club, they eat, drink, have a good time with the good old boys, but boy, they just don't do anything for us. And we have a negative atmosphere out there. And we turn around and say, not true, not true, not true. I firmly believe, or else I would not be supporting this amendment, that being the amendment that I proposed yesterday, and I am opposing the Scofield amendment. I would not be opposing the Scofield amendment if I did not personally believe that the money would not be well spent or at least there would be a legitimate attempt to set things right. I would not be opposing the Scofield amendment if I did not personally believe that there will not be a legitimate attempt to set things right with the amount of money we're talking about. I don't carry water simply to carry water. I offer amendments if I believe in the amendments.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I believe the Department of Economic Development has a desire to set things right. I believe it can coordinate with the regions. But I will also tell Senator Baack that one of the problems I have with this regional concept is that whenever you let the regions go in the areas that they wish