

absolutely nothing to do with if one of these offices happens to end up in North Platte. (Laugh.) And I believe that you would come back and try to make changes, if you found that this doesn't work. The problem is I think North Platte is a large enough community, even with the difficulties that it experiences as the result of a railroad town, that it simply will never experience the problems that towns like Senator Baack's district has, that towns like mine do. And the core of the problem is that there is an attitudinal problem toward little towns and DED. Let me ask you, do you have any idea how DED...is there any...Let me ask you this, is there any truth to the rumor that I've heard that the reason DED chose these towns is because they said they didn't think they could get anybody to live in a smaller town? Is that...is there any truth to that? That's a rumor that has been floated.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Are you really going to give me some of your time to answer that?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Yes, or no, you can have a....

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: I can't...I won't answer that in a yes or no. If you give me a minute, I'll answer that.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you. Put your light on, Senator Bernard-Stevens. (Laughter.) I kind of think that might, in fact, be true, because that, I think, is the problem. And there is an attitude there, in fact even remarks that you made that I don't think you intended to slip up, but there is this concept somehow that if you live in a big enough town, and you've got this chamber of commerce, you're smart enough for us to work with. We can do something with you guys. But those little towns, they're not worth bothering with. They're a lost cause. I really think there is that attitude trouble in this state. And I think that it's a real serious thing that the department should take a hard look at. It goes back to that role and mission, maybe there isn't anything they can do to help towns that size. Then for pete's sake, why don't they just be honest with us and tell us we don't want to do that, we want to do industrial recruitment, we don't want to do any of this other stuff and we'll go find somebody else that wants to do it, because there are plenty of entities out there that have proven they want to do it and proven they're pretty effective at it. And I'll reiterate them again, there is the managing on main street kinds of programs, there are NBDC kinds of programs, a