

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Mr. President and members, I don't think much discussion was offered relative to this concept but I think people are also getting somewhat burned out with the issue in itself, so in closing I would like to reiterate what it is this amendment does, why I think it makes sense. The arguments that I heard against this amendment were rather faint and so I think that leads one to the opinion that maybe this is a philosophical base that the particulars of this amendment may or may not influence anyone. Currently, and for a long time we've had the NBDC centers working out in Nebraska, in rural Nebraska as well as in the urban centers. What those centers have been doing is working with the other independent proprietary individual city chambers of commerces, whatever it may be as the communities do or do not have a local initiative for economic development, providing the resources, the expertise, the personnel, whatever it takes to aid and abet that process in these rural communities. DED has come up with the idea or the executive branch has come up with the idea that we want to have presence, we want to have DED out in the rural communities. If they're going to do that, and they're going to give them \$58,750 each, in essence, to create four offices, most of that money is going to be eaten up in a personnel cost. They are also going to be paying rent. They are also going to have to have telephones, they are going to have to have all the support services and I have a feeling that all they're going to be is not much more than a telephone link and a person face situation to be able to link back to the Lincoln office. Now I think what we can do is parlay that into a much more valuable situation with that same amount of money by making it site specific in a business development center office that already exists. What does a business development center consist of? A lot of consultants that work part time, at least a full-time director, computers, backlogs of research on the communities that are in that particular region, manpower pool studies, all the kinds of tools that we use to help these communities as well as creating new tools and things of the trade as a community comes in with a unique or specialized situation. What that would be is allow the DED office to, in essence, create a situation where we're forcing the business development centers to give office space to DED but have it specifically on the same location where the business development centers are so that there is this cooperation, coordination and also some serious savings of money. Now this DED person is also going to have access to the resources that are there on site. He is going to have access to