

about what we're doing here. One of them said, well, I support the Bernard-Stevens amendment because we need a new office because one time our city got a grant from DED. And I said, well, did they also tell you that I have an amendment to 639 that would put an extra half a million dollars into grants that your city might qualify for? And he said, oh, no, they didn't tell me that. I'm certain that they didn't because they're not supportive of that. They want to just spend the money on salaries. They want to put people out there, people out there who are going to say they're going to help with the local entities, but simply do not do it and, as I said before, I don't think it makes a difference either where the offices are. I think they can be just as ineffective in any town in the state where they locate them. I think it could happen. I think they have proven that in the past. In my area, you know, the Governor talked about in her state of the state address, she said the whisper of the prairie, or whatever, said we need rural Renaissance out there. If this is her answer to rural Renaissance, it's not a very good answer to rural Renaissance at this point. I think in my area if we say what the state is going to do for you for rural Renaissance, is give you another bureaucrat from Lincoln to help you out, that whisper of the prairie becomes a groan. They do not want more bureaucrats out in their area. I simply do not believe that this is the tactic to take. I think we should take those dollars, put it into 639 and give it more direction towards rural economic development, more direction towards grass roots economic development kind of things that have a lasting effect because the research has shown, if there is no grass roots, local involvement, economic development does not succeed. If you have continual turnover, continual change, economic development does not succeed. I urge the body to reject this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please, followed by Senator Hefner, and let's hold the conversation down. I hate to keep nagging you.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, thank you, I hope you were listening to Senator Baack's remarks on this. He's absolutely correct and his philosophy and mine are very similar and I think it's probably because we both come from very rural parts of the state with lots of small communities and have some genuine concerns. And this, frankly, does not solve those concerns. We're back on that original amendment and basically talking about do you want to spend money on field offices or