

amendment on 636 or 639, and we'll have better economic development within the state. The focus of the amendment got real clouded as the emotions of the Economic Development Department, for the last many years, as Senator Wesely well said, has begun to fester within the Legislature and these emotions have come out. And I, personally, have been discussing with the Department of Economic Development with certain concerns that certain senators had on issues that are very important to them, and I'll be honest with you, members of the body, I have said to the Department of Economic Development, listen, I believe that what we're trying to do here is good, but if I feel that I'm getting jerked around on the issue, if I feel that we're saying things to senators that we're going to turn right around and do something different, if I feel that there is no progress in what we're trying to do, if I feel there is no coordination, we're no better off, if I feel that the leadership has simply gotten what they wanted to in the Department of Economic Development, the sigh of relief and nothing else is done, it's the same old, same old as it has been, then I will personally come back and remove the field offices and also remove funding from the Department of Economic Development and we'll do something entirely different, but that's later. I think they can move forward. I think it makes absolute sense, if we're going to have a Department of Economic Development, which we are, it makes sense to have an extension of that closer to the people. It makes sense to have people able to access our state government closer to home. It makes sense to have something out there that has the potential of coordinating and I will be the first to admit the Department of Economic Development has fallen flat on its face in years gone by. But the Department of Economic Development came to the Committee of Government and they say here are some things that have happened to us that we'd like to reorganize, it will help us function better.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And that is a bill that will be before us now...later, and we will pass that and we'll have a department that is going to try, that better try, that should be successful, it better be successful, and we don't want to shoot it in the foot and then come back later and say why didn't you do this? The amendment deserves the proper support and I give whatever time remaining to Senator Hefner.