

May 11, 1989

LB 639

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Kristensen is announcing some guests under our north balcony from Minden, Nebraska, Chris, Claire and Audy Jensen. Would you folks please stand and be welcomed. Thank you. We are glad to have you. And Senator Nelson is announcing in our north balcony 31 fourth graders from Seedling Mile School in Grand Island with their teacher. Would you people please stand and be recognized. We are pleased you could be with us. Thank you. An amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Baack would move to amend the bill.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. Speaker and colleagues, this is an amendment that I had submitted earlier and we had a lot of discussion of this when we were discussing the field offices last week. This was a proposal that I think would have moved the Department of Economic Development in the direction towards better rural economic development. We talked about this. This would have put some grant monies out there for existing development of regions and also encouraging local governmental entities to form regional groups to apply for these funds to promote economic development within their region. I think it reached to the real crux of the matter for rural economic development in saying local support and local grass-roots kind of support is the thing that is really crucial to rural economic development. We have seen...the study for the National Governors Conference shows that some of the criteria for economic development that has really been very positive and worked over the years has been the kind that has had local and grass-roots kind of support. That was what I was shooting for in that amendment. The body made the decision that day that we were going to support the field offices, rather than go this direction. I will honor that request. I think that next year I might be back, though, after we have watched and see what these field offices do. If they are not doing the kind of things I think need to be done, I may be back in with a similar kind of legislation directing them more towards the rural economic development kind of issues that I think need to be done. With that, I would just ask to withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. It is withdrawn. Mr. Clerk.