

were one of those and I don't know, North Platte may not be. North Platte may be the one that is chosen to have 5,000 or less and it will go to another community in that part of the... western Nebraska and that is fine. My position is that when, we have discussed this in theory today all day long, if you give a department or agency the authority to do something, if you give a department and an agency the permission to have branched offices, if you have gone with the governor's proposal of what needs to be done with Economic Development, that is as far as the Legislature needs to go. It is then up to the governor, any governor, whether it is this governor or the next governor or past governors, it is then up to the governor and their agency to do their job. We are doing our job by telling them what they can do. We now need to let them do their job and let them look at the people and the areas and use their expertise or whatever they have and they decide where they think they can have the most effect for economic development in the State of Nebraska. And, they have announced where those are going to be and that is what we have now in the bill. I think it is very dangerous for the Legislature to start getting into games where we start saying I'd like to have it in this town and that town for parochial interests or whatever other reasons there would be.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: So I think on any discussion of a nature...of an issue of this nature, it is important for the Legislature, as we have done in the past, whether it be the ethanol board or other agencies to say we have given you the philosophy, we have given you what Senator Baack said in his discussions and concerns with the Department of Economic Development. Senator Baack was very quick to come up and say, listen, we have put it on the record, they know what we want and by golly if they don't do what we would like for them to do we are going to be back next year, we are going to give them more specific guidelines. But we need to let them have a chance to be successful in what they are doing. Senator Conway also mentioned that if we go with his amendment that the staff is already there. The area is already there and that is simply not true. We are not going to use the same corporate development people for DED and also have them do corporate development in the areas that there are. If we would use Senator Conway's amendment we would still have to hire people to do what DED wants to have done. So the indication was that we would save money by pooling that and that is not going to happen.