

divisions, in the budget we have the divisions. So they couldn't play around with the budget as they had been doing. We were trying to bring accountability to this Legislature and to the public. But we passed that piece of legislation, and some changes did occur back in 1986, but 1987 came and the new director came on board with the new Governor, and we saw that perhaps some things change and then some things don't. One of the first things that happened in 1987 was that I discovered in the summer of 1987 that money that we had appropriated specifically for the Telecommunications Division of the Department of Economic Development had been diverted to a western Governor's Office that had supposedly been funded out of the Governor's Office. This was a diversion of funds not allowed under the statute or under the budgetary process, and I called the department to task for that. There was quite an exchange between myself and the department, names were called in my direction, which seems to be frequently the case lately, but that started back in 1987, and eventually the Attorney General stepped in and the Governor backed off and we saw a change in how the funding of that western Governor's Office occurred. But, nevertheless, since that time, the telecommunications office, that was in early '87 and then in the summer and fall of '87 when we got into the western Governor's Office fight, has never been filled in terms of staffing, and I have challenged and tried to get something happening on that all this time. Two years have passed. I did it, not so much, you know, I work for a telephone company, you think, well, maybe this guy is out to help the telecommunications industry because of that. Well, frankly, that has not anything to do with it because the telephone industry wasn't all that hot for that office to begin with. In fact, they had their reservations about it. The reason I felt all along the Telecommunications Division needed to be funded and staffed and proceed as it was intended to was that I feel responsible for having brought them through LB 965 under the Department of Economic Development. They were created in 1984 under Governor Kerrey's initiative as an independent center under the Department of Administrative Services and located in the Nebraska Educational Television Building. So they were out there on their own doing their thing and doing quite well, and we said, that is wrong, that we ought to bring them in a coordinated fashion under the Department of Economic Development, and I was told by supporters of that office, well, Wesely, you are going to cause us trouble; you are going to bring us under the Department of Economic Development; they are going to ignore that, and we are going to end up not having