

anything. And I said, no, no, trust me, we will bring them under there, and they said they are willing to work with you and we are going to see that this office continues. And so those of us that co-sponsored the bill, we introduced the bill, we passed the bill, and there the telecommunications office came under the Department of Economic Development. Well, it, of course, infuriated me to no end that a year later exactly what those people said would happen happened, and so I fought so hard, I want it in the record, I fought so hard to try to keep telecommunications going because I had made a promise to those people that wanted to see that happen, and that promise and I have tried to fulfill, but the Department of Economic Development has ignored it. So in 1987, we started in on the whole issue of what is happening with telecommunications, we had a bill last year that was before the Government Committee. It was in 1988 and I quote Roger Christianson. He said at that time, "We have had 61 applications. This is for the director of the division. We have been screening those. We hope to get those down to five, and within the next three weeks to hire a division director, and then we will, subsequently, let the division director fill the other positions that are currently vacant." That was in February of 1988. It is now May of 1989, obviously, they did not hire a division director. They did not fulfill the promises that they made and onward they went ignoring the will of the Legislature that had been created in 1984, and then redirected into the department in 1986. Also in 1988 all this controversy came to light in a hearing that Senator Moore and Senator Hannibal and Senator Scofield and other members of the Appropriations Committee held on the telecommunications office in the Department of Economic Development, and again I quote. I quote Scott Moore, he says dealing with Telecommunications Division, "It was Rod Bates' child," said Senator Scott Moore, referring to the previous DED Director. Senator Gary Hannibal of Omaha said, 'Obviously, it isn't Mr. Christianson's child.' Picking up on that, Mr. Christianson responded by saying, 'I have adopted the child, Senator.' Moore replied, 'And you will raise and nurture it as if like it were your very own.'" Well, Senator Moore hoped that telecommunications would be raised and nurtured as one of Roger Christianson's own children but, heaven forbid, if Roger raises his own children the way he has taken care of the Telecommunications Division because it is dead. Under this bill, it is dead. We are here to bury the Telecommunications Division. That is what LB 639 would do. It would eliminate that division. Well, it has really been eliminated for two