

long because as Senator Chambers says a lot of times you are just speaking to the wind. I am going to vote against the advancement of the bill, and Senator Wesely has pointed out some of the things that we, in the Appropriations Committee, have gone through in the last five years that I have been on it, and he is absolutely right. Whether we do things for economic development, we do things in the name of economic development, obviously, because it is a very noble goal, it is a very great buzzword, and we all want to try to stimulate and promote economic growth and development in the State of Nebraska. So it is very difficult to say it is a bad goal, bad idea. I don't see, however, any reason why we have to pass this bill to promote and establish those goals. I see more reason, based on what we did two years ago with the passage of LB 965, to leave the divisions in place. There has been a litany of problems from an accounting, from a management, from a communications, from a strategy, planning type of thing, to a turnover in directors, to changes of philosophies within the department, there has been a litany of problems within that department. Now I have suggested to Senator Wesely what we probably ought to do is take the 3 million odd dollars in General Funds in Economic Development and move it over to Policy Research and let's truly make it a tool to be at the bidding of the Governor because it is a good tool, and it should be used as a tool to help the state. But if we are not going to do that, and I didn't vote to kill the bill because I don't want to slap the department in the face, but I don't see any advantage of advancing this bill. To keep the divisions where they are, to allow us as a committee to keep a little better handle on the divisions and try to keep them accountable is not anything different than we ask of any other agency in government. I don't know how many programs we go through but I will bet 90 percent of the agencies that we have have more than one program, more than two, and in some cases, five, ten, fifteen programs. To ask the Department of Economic Development to keep five basic divisions is not unreasonable. They have operated under this thing for not even two full years, three years now, and we have seen problems with it. We have seen some things that border on not real cricket things. The only place, the only agency of government that we allow the kind of flexibility that you are asking for this department is one, and we are standing in it right here, and if it weren't for us, we wouldn't give ourselves the flexibility, you can't imagine the flexibility we have as a group, but we are the only one that we give that flexibility to because we are good stewards of our own funds. Nobody else has it. It is not