

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I forgot what to call you, Senator Landis. You're usually on this side eloquently expressing yourself on various issues, were I to have that talent. This bill is one that we viewed with a great deal of seriousness in Government Committee, one which I supported in the original form and then we found that there were possible problems with that implementation of the original bill. And as Speaker Barrett, Senator Barrett indicated, those problems were worked out. In Nebraska we have a number of buildings that stand empty and I would point one's attention to how this might work to something that has been done privately in one of my communities, Geneva, Nebraska, where there was an interest of local individuals and they created in several empty buildings a business incubator of a type on their own, has been very successful in a community of about 2,500 people, has provided a place for people with very little money, but an interest in doing something entrepreneurial to have a place to start with the support of other business people in the same area. We have seen in several years of operation two businesses from that that have already spun off until they are into their own facility. So I think that if we had this authorization and encouragement in law, we would see more of those types of things happening in Nebraska and would have a better use of some of the facilities, public and private, that do exist out there now and are currently falling into disrepair because they are not being used. So I would encourage the adoption of this amendment and then the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. There are three lights remaining, Senator Hefner, followed by Senator Schmit and then Senator David Bernard-Stevens. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to offer my support to the Barrett amendment. I think it's needed because when the bill was originally drafted we didn't say all public buildings. I think the bill said just state buildings, but this would allow for all public buildings. This is a good opportunity for government to work with private business, work with small businesses. I've seen this work and what this would do is put it in statute and help it along a little bit. But so many times, so many times a small business when they are getting started needs a little help and this way they would be able to share, like perhaps maybe a secretary and a copy machine or a fax machine or whatever else you'd have. It