

into retirement. I want to say again that the State of Nebraska stretches a long way. It stretches from Falls City to Chadron and from Scottsbluff to South Sioux City. There is a lot of territory out there. There is a lot of responsibility for these various institutions relative to the maintenance of the businesses and industries and farms and ranches that cover that state, and to the extent that we as a Legislature make our wishes and our desires, our demands known, those industries and farms and ranches will be served to the extent that we acquiesce and do not make those demands known, they are not going to be served. We know that it is easy, it is easy to concentrate your investments in a small area, keep them close to home and sort of let someone else take care of the hinterland. We have a real concern because Nebraska agriculture today is not prosperous. Those who would have you believe otherwise are not involved in it. I made the point on this floor many times that my son sells corn today for less than what we sold it for 40 years ago and we all know what has happened to the cost of production. The same problems then are inherent with the businesses that serve rural Nebraska. It is extremely difficult for a business to survive in rural Nebraska and we have seen implement shops, we have seen automobile dealerships, we have seen plumbing shops, we have seen hardware stores close and thereby forcing the inhabitants of those areas to travel greater distances which also then increases their cost of operation and the cost of their production with no offsetting ability to compensate for those increased costs. We saw that just this last winter, doubling and tripling of the cost of petroleum which raised havoc with many farm operations and with many homes and many businesses; had no recourse whatsoever except to pay it and it places many of those institutions in jeopardy. I think we have to recognize that as our institutions become stronger, become larger, they have to become more knowledgeable and they have to expand their scope of activity in those areas rather than to diminish them. I'll tell you very honestly that if they do not do so, that my interest in this kind of legislation will be reduced. Maybe that is not of any concern to some persons, but it might just be the start of a trend. And so with that, I would hope the bill would be advanced to Select File.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The question is the advancement of LB 1146 to E & R Initial. Those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, please.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of