

March 2, 1990

LB 1019

gentlemen, we'll move on to General File, LB 1019.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 1019 was introduced by Senator Rod Johnson. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 8 of this year, referred to the Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, LB 1019 is my priority bill this session and is a bill designed to establish an International Trade Division within the Department of Economic Development which will help promote, I think, the State of Nebraska, its products, its people, its industries, its services and all of the...hopefully, it will capitalize on the opportunities that are beginning to present themselves as we span the globe for economic opportunities.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson, (gavel), let's hold it down so we can hear the speakers, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, thank you. This idea is not a new one by any means. In fact, Nebraska has been in the business of international trade before back in the late seventies or early eighties. We did have an International Trade Office in Frankfurt, Germany, I believe. Unfortunately, that office never succeeded, and when we started getting tight with dollars, that office was then closed. But as we look at what is happening around the world and particularly in eastern Europe, but not to devoid ourselves from what is also happening in the eastern rimmed countries of the Far East, we see opportunities that I think Nebraska should be capitalizing on. We are one of only seven states in the country that does not have some form of international trade office or division working on international trade. Now there are three basic areas that these offices provide to their states and the first is, obviously, export enhancement. They find or hopefully will locate export opportunities or trade opportunities that our companies in Nebraska or our farmers in Nebraska currently do not have. Secondly, they also seek to secure reverse investments by bringing investors to Nebraska to invest in our industries and our businesses. And lastly, they also promote tourism in our state, they try and promote the state's natural beauties and attract people to come to their state. I've handed out to you a