

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. President and colleagues, I also rise in support of LB 1019, Senator Johnson's bill. The Government Committee heard this bill and had some excellent testimony on the bill and I think it's particularly important that this, at this time, that we're going through in the world today and as we see the changes that we're seeing that are going on in eastern Europe and in Asia, I think, and see countries that are opening up their borders to democracy and opening up their borders to different markets, but I think it is particularly important that Nebraska become involved in something like this International Trade Office because we, in Nebraska, have many, many products that we can offer to these countries and I think that we ought to be out there pushing these products to these countries, and as they open their borders, we ought to be right there to go in and offer our products to meet the needs and the wants of the people in those countries. I think this is an idea whose time has come and we need to do this this year. I think we need to be in place and we need to get this thing up and running very, very soon so that we can take advantage of some of the situations that are going on. So with that, I would urge the body to advance LB 1019 and I think it is money well spent and I don't think that we will be losing anything by spending money on an International Trade Office. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, followed by Senators Ashford and Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise to support the concept of the bill, but to raise several issues, perhaps warning flags, perhaps for the record, so that the people in the Department of Economic Development might have an idea as to what we expect them to do with 1019. As many of you know, my experience in export market development goes back to 1981, and an interest in export market development certainly before then, but the hands-on experience evolved the five years of service and the maintaining of contacts with people who were involved in export market development for feed grains around the world in many, many countries. I would suggest that there is nothing wrong with appropriating the \$300,000 to begin the process of involvement of our Department of Economic Development in the trade fairs that are organized around the world so that we have a Nebraska presence. There is nothing wrong with appropriating the \$300,000 to represent a multibillion dollar