

is good, is workable and can bring dividends in the future. With that I urge the body certainly to support 1184, and hopefully it will be into law then at the end of this year. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Weihing.

SENATOR WEIHING: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to support 1184. I won't be speaking about really the structure but really the need. It's a very critical need, and it becomes more and more critical with each year. Many of us may not realize but 50 years ago it was really much easier to get from, say, Chadron to Lincoln than it is now at many times. And the reason I say that, when I...30 years ago I would get on the train, in Lincoln, and overnight, next morning I would be out at Alliance or Scottsbluff. I could get on the train at Alliance or Scottsbluff in the evening, be here in the morning, no loss of time. We don't have that kind of train service. As many of you know, Senator Scofield has been working very hard just to maintain bus service out in the western area. At one time, buses were very common, they stopped at each town, city, hamlet, it carried us from the western part to the eastern part. Now we do not have that. We are limited to our automobile. And the automobile is not available to everyone, there are many people who cannot drive for one reason or another. Now, having an airline service will be of inestimable benefit. In governmental we talk about it economically. There are many offices, many offices of the government that are in the western parts of the state, and it limits it to traveling by automobile, if we do not have airline, we do not have the buses, we do not have the trains. The area of education, have you ever thought about getting your child 400 miles to the Lincoln campus? Requires a car. We may not always be able to afford that car. We need to have this easy, or I shouldn't put it easy, but the necessary transportation, the necessary transportation so that our university can commute back and forth, our students can commute back and forth. Primary and secondary education is connected with our state government right in this Capitol and right within in the State Office Building, there is constant personal commuting that must be done. And in the area of just social affairs, the beautiful Lied Center, which some of you have seen, and the performances and the lectures, and the many other events that will occur, and how do we get to it? By travel. And if there are not the trains, there are not the buses, then it is the automobile. We may not have the time,