

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, I, too, support the bill. And, as you know, I think Senator Baack said that too often we senators don't look at the future, and that we are reacting to a situation. I will guarantee you in the tri-city area I think we're reacting to a situation right now. When Braniff Airlines went bankrupt and pulled out, it did away with the connections and the cheaper fares and so on that we could en...did enjoy in Braniff in Kansas City. I think that we're very fortunate in Nebraska that we do have Senator Exon, who is a member of the essential air service and should be available to help us to a great extent. And I'm also a partner in the essential air service, on his committee. So, we do have a little bit of help. We simply cannot attract and keep business if we don't have transportation. We can give all the incentives in the world, but the officials and so on have to be able to get from one point to the other. In our deliberations over an airport for Adams, Buffalo and Hall County and so on, we certainly found out there is a lot of competition for extra money or additional money on air service, and yet what the need is, if we don't have some type of good transportation. We also are moving very rapidly to only hub airports. You can find that out on the national level. So we will have to provide, or try to, our own smaller airlines to provide service or to connect with Denver, St. Louis and Kansas City. In my area we have hired a professional to come in and try to give us points and to study and contacts for other airlines. I'm sure that this is probably available, maybe some of that expertise and so on...I was visiting with a gentleman from Omaha, just last evening, or the other evening, and he also was very knowledgeable on the situation and on a committee that had to do with it. So I'm not all sure that a lot of this background information isn't available. But, again, I certainly, at this point, support the bill and I don't think anyone can say that the need isn't there. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Members of the body, I'm pleased to be...and I hope that Senator Bernard-Stevens is here. Darn, I see he's not. I wanted to use a little play on words this morning and say that I'm pleased to be a crew member on that flight to assure essential air service. How do you like that? And I really don't have a lot to say, because I'm not going to stand here and repeat all of the things that everyone