

locate there because of the problems that are associated with areas of that type, ranging from crime and vagrancy to simply buildings that are very expensive to renovate and keep up, it probably justifies going in and giving a bonus above and beyond the credit that is typically given under LB 270. To get a company to locate in North Omaha, for example, as compared to a typical site in another part of the city, probably is a very difficult thing to do at this point. With some enterprise zone legislation, there is at least a chance that a company might locate in a depressed area, might employ some people that live in that area, might, in fact, take a chance that their business could be successful there. I'm not saying that couldn't happen without enterprise zone legislation, without additional tax credits, but I think this certainly heightens the chances of that occurring. I think the Hartnett amendment is a good one. I would urge your adoption of it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, I come at this from a couple perspectives. First, I want to note for the record once again, we keep referring to the Employment Expansion Investment Incentive Act as LB 270. LB 270 amended that act. That act was LB 1124 and adopted in 1986. The point I'm trying to make is that original act was the forefather of LB 775 and LB 270. And what we did was we took the benefit level and we doubled it, I think, under LB 270. But we made it about ten times as great for LB 775 and I'm sure, at this point, it's at least five or six times as great a benefit for the same type of investment under LB 775 than what we provide under the other act that was amended by LB 270. So you can argue that in light of the expenditures in LB 775 the proposal by Senator Hartnett is not out of line. On the other hand, it does further extend and increase the benefit level under the original bill that we passed back in '86. I understand the desire to send more resources into those depressed areas into the enterprise zones and I think there is some validity in trying to identify areas of greatest need and redirecting resources into those areas. I'm going to oppose this though just simply on the fact that we seem to be ever increasing incentives and benefit levels. Even if this does have a lot of appeal, I think, in general the sort of benefit level that we put in 775 is excessive and still the accountability for that has yet to be determined. And although I think there is a lot more validity in the other bill that was targeted more to the small business side, I think just in