

April 5, 1995

LB 425

thank the body for doing this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and members of the body. One of the concerns I have on economic development in this particular state, and it really is getting to more of the crux of the amendment, and the bill, than where we've talked to before, is the amount of dollars that we are spending, the amount of dollars we are giving away in economic incentives, and who we are trying to attract, and who it is we are not trying to help, and I say this very sincerely on this portion of the bill that disturbs me a great deal. The people that I see that we need to be helping on economic development are the people who are already there. The people that I see that we need to be helping in economic development are the retailers out there, who would like to expand and be able to bring new things into their stores, whatever, but it is pretty tough right now, whether on interest rates or they can't seem to get the loans. The people I'd like to help are people that are the smaller ones, not just the Microns, and I voted for Micron. Those types of jobs are absolutely essential, but I also think that the retailers of this state, who are the backbone, really, of the State of Nebraska, I wonder what we are doing to help those who are already here. I don't know too many people who are crying to get into the Lewellen, Nebraska area to open a business. I don't know too many people that are looking to get into the middle of the Sandhills and open a business. I do know of a lot of businesses that want to go into the North Plattes and the Kearneys and the Grand Island, and the Interstate 80 corridor, the Omaha, the Lincoln, but I don't know too many in the southeast part of the state. And in order for economic development and for this state to survive in the rural areas, we have got to find ways of getting monies to those people who are there now. And what I see on this particular bill is that most retailers do not qualify, contractors certainly don't qualify, farming or ranching don't qualify, and so on. Senator Engel, if you could yield for a question,...

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...how many dollars and who can qualify, let me rephrase the question, do the people who qualify under this proposal, could they qualify also under LB 270, which