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our economic development programs. And I think that the logic of that would pertain to this bill because not only is the bill directed towards the agricultural sector, which is its link, of course, to the Department of Agriculture, but it is also geared towards the rest of the rural community, and in both of those functions there can be conflicts with or confluences with or relationships with or applications from an applicant for more than one program. I mean we, obviously, already have programs that would apply to the rural sector and to the agricultural sector, various types of programs, and it's important, I think, that one department and one set of people have a handle on what all is going on, both with respect to an individual applicant for state funds and with respect to particular communities out there who may be benefitting from...from one program and not another whereas other communities may be benefitting from all programs. I think it's important that that kind of information be closely shared, and I think that's the whole theory of a Department of Economic Development. If we have economic developments related to the insurance industry, for example, we don't put those in the Department of Insurance. Likewise with bankers, you would hope bankers would never need an economic development program but they are...or be an economic development program but likewise in that case we wouldn't...we wouldn't put an economic development program in the Department of Banking. And so I think the sense of the matter is, and the logic of the matter is, and the proper place for the administration of this program is with the Department of Economic Development, and so I offer you this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Beutler. (Visitors introduced.) For debate on AM2790 to the committee amendments to LB 1348. Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I understand, I think, where Senator Beutler is coming from. I guess if that change is going to be made, I'm not really sure that it is all that necessary, I think the Department of Agriculture could do a very adequate job of taking care of the problems, but probably if the change is going to be made, it ought to be made and put over to the Department of Rural Economic Development, which is a different...a different entity than the Department of Environment...of Economic