

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 21, 2000 LB 936

sit down and integrate the provisions of those three different bills, because there's overlap and confusion and they really need to be looked at all together. In fact, I think the best thing that could happen would be that if the sponsors of the three bills, Senator Vrtiska, Senator Wehrbein and Senator Matzke, got together and put it all into one bill that was all related, coherently related and internally integrated and related. But this bill tends to take a look at economic development as it applies to different regions of the state. So whereas LB 775 perhaps accidentally got us into the process of favoring one region over the other, if you look at it that way, its purported purpose and intent was not to do that. Its intent was to simply protect all regions of the state from economic development assisted by government in other states. But now we've got LB 775, which is perceived and which may in fact, because of other economic factors, have the effect of assisting more of those areas where the labor forces are larger, because it has that effect, now we have other kinds of economic development bills that say the purpose of the state contribution to economic development should be to see that all areas of the state have equal economic development. Or is that the purpose? And should that be the purpose? Are we in the business now of trying to regulate competition within the state also in an economic development sense? Are we getting away entirely from Adam Smith's principles of a free economic enterprise system so that government is going to interfere here, there, and everywhere to try to see that business is equally spread throughout an economic region, or throughout the entire state? And then the other bills before us this session take us into other areas. One of them addresses value-added industry. Now are we going to get into the business, not only of protecting ourselves from other states, protecting regions within Nebraska with economic development aid, now we're going to get into the business of trying to assist particular types of industry with economic development aid? And then somebody comes in with another industry that's good, is value-added agricultural benefit, is that better than other kinds of economic development? Do we want to do it industry-by-industry? But that's the path we start down with in another bill. And then a third bill deals with the agricultural sector generally, giving large amounts of grant money to particular kinds of development in the agricultural sector broader...that's broader than the