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who is an attorney from Gothenburg. I met Michael a few years ago when we were working on the potato issue, trying to find a way to bring a potato plant into north central Nebraska. He says: As President of the Nebraska Diplomats, this last year I have traveled all over the state of Nebraska. As a practitioner, I have consulted with small communities all over the state regarding economic development. I tell you unequivocally that your proposal is not only helpful but necessary to keep these rural communities healthy. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. On the Beutler amendment to the committee amendments to LB 936, Senator Bromm, followed by Senators Engel, Brashear, Wehrbein and Raikes.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and colleagues. I spoke on this bill the other day and I wanted to clarify a couple of things. The paper reported that I had concerns about the bill. I want to clarify that my concerns do not mean that I don't support the bill; I support this amendment and I support the bill. The concerns that I spoke of I still have, and Senator Matzke has expressed an interest in working on this area of the bill between now and Select File. So I'm going to certainly support moving the bill to Select File. What I said was and where my concerns lie are...are this, the bill has really a threshold for minimum investment into rural counties that I think is somewhat unrealistic for the bottom 50 percent of the counties in the state. When you look at the list of counties and their population and the jobs and the average wages, and you put that minimum investment threshold, I think it's going to limit the usefulness in the bottom half of the counties. And what drives me to that conclusion is I think the real opportunity for the bottom half of the counties, with this bill, is in the area of "telework", telemarketing, the use of computers, either at a central location in the community, where you have...where you have very reasonable rent, you have a facility, you have...you have the availability of Internet and fast connections on the Internet, you'll have opportunities for 10 jobs, 5 jobs, 15 jobs. And companies, once they realize that there are people in these communities willing to do those jobs and willing to do them for not a minimum wage salary but a salary that is certainly very competitive with salaries that are