

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1348

get it passed and do some of the things we think that are certainly important for production agriculture, now we're being asked to sacrifice a certain amount of that money back again to put it in a program that looks like it's doing the job. It's done a really good job for some of the urban areas of Nebraska. So I don't...I can't stand here and say that I think that somebody is being left out. I don't see it that way. And so again, I'm not opposing the urban counties. I've supported legislation for urban counties. I'm just asking you now to do something for some of rural Nebraska. And as I've said before, we all know that whatever happens to rural Nebraska and production agriculture affects the whole state. When there's a downturn in the economy out in the country, it spreads across to the cities. So we're just asking you to do something for production agriculture, for value-added, for other programs that will be beneficial. And we're putting more money into the microenterprise program that we're demonstrating here where the money is going. So I don't see that this bill is...this amendment is necessary to carry out the functions that Senator Kiel wants to. If I thought that that weren't the case, I wouldn't be standing up here opposing this bill. But when I look at what's happening to the money from this microloan, this microenterprise network that we've got in place, I don't see where anybody is being left out if they want to be a part of it. So I'm going to continue to vigorously oppose Senator Kiel's amendment. As I told you before, I allowed her to include her amendment into a bill that I had. It didn't get passed. But this microenterprise network that we set up across the state is working. It's getting more money. So what more do we want? And I guess I, again, am going to ask you to oppose Senator Kiel's amendment to the...to LB 1348. And with that, thank you for your time. I'll turn the rest of my time back to the chair.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. It's four o'clock. And you will remember, earlier in the day, Senator Kristensen, our Speaker, announced that at four o'clock we would take a break and recognize the former senators who are here. So I will ask Senator Kristensen, are you still there, yes, to take over.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. Few states have the kinship that Nebraska