

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

March 2, 2005

LB 546

Nebraska. The second criteria, and it's a criteria that I will probably talk about a lot more, is the involvement of higher education. And a part of economic coordination is the determination...the involvement of...the determination of the kinds of jobs that are useful and helpful for economic development, and the development of those jobs, and the interaction with the development of the individuals who will take those jobs. And this is a way for us to not only center industry, but also address the brain drain. One of the models that you look at that is probably the most well-known is the research triangle in North Carolina, where three communities of relatively similar sizes, three campuses of higher education--Duke University, the University of North Carolina, and North Carolina State--collaborated to form a research park. And we talk about it and think about the research triangle, that it took place, you know, maybe within the last 20 years, and it was actually 50 years ago that the research triangle was established, and it started with an impetus from the academic community. But what the result has been is much more...much less competition and more coordination of economic development activities within the area, and it has led to a blossoming of the area, although I have been advised by Senator Redfield, who has relatives that live there, that they, because there was a concentration of technology jobs, they were particularly hurt during the downturn. But I'm more, at this point, talking more about it from the aspect of what involving the higher education community with the economic development community did to those communities working together in a real meaningful way. And Senator Chambers is always making literary and historical references on the floor. I was talking about this bill with a friend and said something about one of the outcomes that I would like to see is a research triangle, and he said, well, you've got two points, you don't have a third point and so you really can't have a research triangle. Now, geometry was not my best subject, but I do know enough to know that unless Avoca is going to grow really fast that we are talking about a research point at this place because we don't really have a triangle yet. And I am saying that specifically for Senator Chambers, because he always makes references that are literary, and so we now have a mathematic reference and he needs to find mathematic references to be able to make in the future. We have something of an