down to York and connect to I-80, what percentage of the Nebraska population would be within 30 miles of a four-lane road?

SENATOR ENGEL PRESIDING

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Johnson, would you yield?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes. What we...I had the people in my office do a rough study, and what it basically came down to is that about...well, it's over 90 percent of the people would be within 30 miles of a four-lane road.

SENATOR FLOOD: Thank you. That makes this point very clear for me. A four-lane expressway from Norfolk to Sioux City makes sense. It connects our corner of the state. It's only $130 million, and I'm sure Senator Pederson from North Platte is enjoying this conversation. But if you want to talk about responsible and economic development that benefits the citizens of the state of Nebraska in the rural areas, this will do that. I return the balance of my time to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR ENGEL: Thank you, Senator Flood. We recognize Senator Fischer.

SENATOR FISCHER: Thank you, Mr. President. Senator Flood, I think if you put a four-lane highway in there, they're just going to drive through faster. But to get back to LB 273, I've listened to the debate on this for a number of days now, and I've heard some senators say that we need to have a comprehensive economic development plan and not a number of these piecemeal plans for rural economic development. Being new here and not having been a part of previous discussions over the years when you've dealt with economic development, I can only surmise that rural economic development has been left out of those previous discussions and those previous bills. And that's why we have to beg for crumbs here, as Senator Chambers has so eloquently said. We've been left out of the bills that have provided opportunities and I'm borrowing a well-known phrase here, we've been left out of those "to grow Nebraska." Why is that? Why do we have to have bills that address the specific