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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 312

Now, whether you're urban, suburban, or rural, incentives from the state, whether they're sales tax refunds, or they are wage benefits, or whatever kind of credits you might want to talk about, it all works to grow Nebraska's economy. And I think everybody understands that, without those incentives, our economy does not grow. Our population isn't growing. Fortunately, our economy is growing a little bit. Do I...I think everyone in here would also agree that we wish there were no incentives. Wouldn't it be a nice world if none of us had to pay incentives to grow our home state businesses, or to attract business from other states? I heard this afternoon an interesting fact. I wouldn't believe this until I thought about it. Nationally, there are about 250 to 500 businesses that relocate, that move from one state to another, and that's not very many. And I forget that there were tens of thousands of economic development operations and organizations that are out fighting for these 200 to 500 businesses to come to their particular location. And guess what. They all lead with cash. They all lead with incentives to bring business to their location. And Nebraska used to play. Nebraska used to get in...as Senator Landis mentioned, used to get in the door. LB 775, a dozen years ago, was an attractive package for some businesses. And today, our Economic Development Department isn't getting in the door. Now, does that mean we're not growing the economy? No, it doesn't mean that at all. And this body, I think, has been responsive. When Union Pacific asked for consideration to relocate their facility from St. Louis to Omaha, this body responded. This body has long responded to business needs. Now, in my district...I'm going to tell the Cargill story. I've told this thing...this is the third year, and I beg your indulgence, but I'm going to tell the Cargill story again. In 1990, Cargill was looking for a location in this general area for a wet milling corn operation and it came down to two locations--Council Bluffs, and Blair. And they...their promise was, we will create 100 jobs, and we will invest \$100 million to build this engine that takes corn, and through a wet milling process they're able to turn it into a natural product, and then use that product to create ethanol and fructose and lysine and lactic acid and a number of different products. That was in 1990. They came, because of LB 775, to Blair.