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LB 312

I don't think we can wait until January 1 of '06. I think this is a matter that we have before us today. And what we have to do is consider, how can we make our state more economically We've carried on with LB 775. And I know there has viable? been opposition to it. It's characterized as corporate giveaway. But it's allowed us to have the opportunity to bring businesses to our state. I can assure you that I know...and just as Senator Mines has talked about, Blair, Nebraska, the opportunities that developed there as a result of economic incentives, that same thing happened in North Platte. We would not have a large economic entity in North Platte that came in three years ago if we had not had a better economic package to We were battling, at that point, with western eastern Colorado, I'm sorry. And they chose Colorado...eastern North Platte instead of eastern Colorado. It's not a pristine world that we live in. We live in a world where we have businesses, both in our state, who are looking to expand, and we have businesses elsewhere who are looking to a location to And I think in each case they're looking at, as you would in your own life, look at where is the best, most viable opportunity for your company. That's why they do that. know, we're no different than people in Iowa. We think we're better, but are we? But they have economic incentive packages that they are able to give to people. And that's why we end up with things like Bass Pro moving into Iowa instead of into Nebraska. So I think we're in a situation where we do have to look to economic incentives. Now, is this the best plan? I don't know. But I have a lot of faith in the Revenue Committee and the efforts that they have gone to. They have been meeting with businesses, and at all times are considering what's best interest of the state of Nebraska. And I think that they have invested a great deal of time trying to assess, what do companies look for? How can we make our economic package viable when compared to those of other states? Because frankly, that's what we're up against, is making our package available to the interests of businesses that are thinking of either expanding or relocating in the state of Nebraska. So I think we have to bear that in mind. I think it's because of this that the Governor involved himself in the process and met with the Speaker and Senator Landis and myself, in an effort to see if we could come up with some kind of a package. Because we've looked down the