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SENATOR JOHNSON: Senator Cudaback, other members of the body, I like to think about things in the history, and what got me going on this here recently was this. As I remembered going to a meeting over at the Cornhusker Hotel when I was first appointed, I was sitting there and the speaker said something that I've never forgotten, and I think it's well for all of us to remember: He that is best able to adjust, adjust to change, will be the most successful, because change is going to occur, and we need to adjust to that change. I mentioned earlier the tremendous change in the demographics of Nebraska. Here are some of the things that have had the negative impact, and I think that we should remember these as we look to the future, because all of these had a permanent impact, not just a temporary impact. The Homestead Act was in 1862; by 1900, virtually all of the free land was gone. The other thing that people found is that 160 acres was enough, if you had a good farm. But if you didn't have a good farm, you needed more land than that; so again, we started losing population right away there. The railroads came around 1900, created a town every eight miles. Now the railroads are gone, and one of the main reasons for the town ever existing went with them. In 1910 the automobile came along, a brand-new, fast way of getting around, but what really made it fast was ten years later when we started putting in paved roads. In 1930s, we had the Depression, the drought, but most important, the tractor became part of the farm scene. Since then, the tractors and all machinery have gotten bigger and bigger, requiring less personnel. World War II came along, with subsequently the GI bill and the REA also came in. In 1960 a huge change occurred with I-80 coming across Nebraska, and I would again suggest to you that where I-80 is, we're doing pretty well. You get more than 25 miles off of I-80 and you're struggling, at best. And this is why I think that we need to create what we call the second interstate. Continuing on: In the 1980s we had the farm depression. Another thing that has happened is this: Unfortunately, our young and middle-aged citizens, as well as the older, wealthier citizens, are the people that have left our state, and particularly certain areas of our state. One other last thing is that we have to recognize a huge shift in how we do business in this state, in that we now have regional trade centers, and that the smaller communities are going to have to cope with this problem, and it's going to