

And you all know that when the final analysis comes down we have to make decisions on priority bills and make our best judgements on this choice. I then selected LB 850 for a priority bill over the bill which I had introduced, 964, because the concept is probably a little broader, and, therefore, I felt had more potential for market-driven economic development in the State of Nebraska on a broader scope, feeling that many of the ideas in 964 could be embodied in 850. This is an exciting area and one that a person could come into, and I hope you, too, will gain the enthusiasm that I have for this concept. We are breaking new ground in the State of Nebraska, not in the United States, but in the State of Nebraska. We are investing on a long-term basis in an idea that we feel will be very fruitful for the economy in our state. And we have backing of many organizations, many chambers of commerce and other entities involved as they have studied this issue. And I think you, too, will gain this enthusiasm because of the potential. Now it is a concept, and being human, as we all are, we want to hang onto tangibles, or we attempt to always want to see something tangible. We want to see a building, or a garment, or a person rather than a concept. And concepts are occasionally hard for us to accept. I want to explain to you the concept embodied in 850 this afternoon, and hope that you can visualize, on the basis of experience in other states, what potential this has. LB 850 would establish a research and development authority, a partnership, if you will, between government and private industry and education. We would be capitalizing on three strengths already in existence in the State of Nebraska. We would be bringing these forces together to eliminate, if you will, duplication in the state and maximize our investment. This authority is designed to evaluate and support and encourage the development of ideas into viable ventures, businesses, if you will, which translates to jobs, which translates to money and, if you want to think about it in this way, the potential for tax dollars for our state, by bolstering our economy. It is an investment by Nebraskans for Nebraskans. It is a concept that you will find, as we go along, is market-driven, does not rely upon just the ideas of education or the ideas embodied within government to expand this economy. And I think that is a very, very important factor to keep in mind. It is market-driven. Again, it is a private, a public sector, and an education partnership. Now we have 38 programs in 22 other states which follow, in one way or another, the idea embodied in