

because of the economic conditions that we are faced with in this state for the last few years, that added to the fact that we have had quite a bit of turnover at the Department of Economic Development has caused a lot of people to believe that there had ought to be some changes made in the way that department is operated or the way the director is appointed. But I tend to agree with Senator DeCamp. If economic development is so important, and I think it is, that the agency that heads it up, the director had out to be a code level agent, had ought to be able to speak for the Governor, and be appointed by the Governor, and serve at the pleasure of the Governor. Now I note in the bill, if you read the next sentence that Senator DeCamp is amending, it says that the director shall have equal rank with the heads of other state departments, now it seems to me that we would be creating a really unusual situation if we have got a director serving at the pleasure of the commission and yet being considered the same as directors of other code level agencies. Furthermore, I would point out to you that back on page 7 of the bill, it articulates some of the things that the department shall develop and implement strategies to. One of those things that it talks about is to maintain and revitalize economically depressed rural areas and urban neighborhoods. Now I will tell you it is going to be pretty difficult for any director, whether he is appointed by the Governor or appointed by some commission, to revitalize a lot of the areas in my district, a lot of those rural areas, unless there is some changes in the economy so that some people can make some profit. We are just kidding ourselves if we think we can create some sort of a mechanism that the Department of Economic Development can somehow revitalize those towns that are suffering so bad economically. So I think that because of the depressed economy and because of the frustration that a lot of people are having with trying to deal with that, that this particular bill is a result of that and my suggestion is that we ought to proceed very cautiously with this type of a change and this type of a bill based on the fact that we have got something that we can't deal with and haven't been able to solve. I don't think this is going to solve it either, but I think that it would go a long way toward helping this bill if we adopt the DeCamp amendment, and then on Select File perhaps some more clarifying amendments would perhaps be forthcoming. So with that, I would urge the adoption of the DeCamp amendment, Mr. President.