

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, did you wish to talk to the DeCamp amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would like to speak to the DeCamp amendment, Mr. President. Mr. President and members, it has been said on this floor many times, quoting Senator Jerry Warner, that if the Chevy is working, don't fix it, and the same quote had ought to be true, that if the Chevy is not working, you ought to fix it. There is another phrase I guess that goes something like this. Sometimes it is better to do something even if it proves to be wrong than to continue that which you know to be wrong. If you look back in the history, is there anyone here who can say that the Department of Economic Development has not been a Department of Economic Disaster. The only economic development that has taken place over there has been that which has been paid in salaries for the most part to the employees. I do not know, maybe someone else does, and I would like to have you refresh my memory if that is true, of the types of businesses that have developed as the result of the efforts of that area. I think that you have to agree that it has been virtually nil. Now I don't know, if I were Governor I would like to be able to appoint that director. I think most of us would like to. Probably the problem comes is when we elect the Governor. If you elect a Governor that does not follow through and appoint a strong director, then you have difficulty. I agree with what Senator Landis has said. Politics is politics and those of us that have to live in a fishbowl ought to respond accordingly. The facts are that when it comes to the appointment of these individuals, we find it very, very, very difficult to find someone who will take that job, do a professional job of it, and not be swayed by the politics of it. Point number two, regardless of who you appoint for that division head, the real director of economic development is the Governor of the state whether it be Nebraska, New York City, New Mexico, or any other state. If you have a Governor who was willing to strap on an airplane and go to the industry that he needs to bring to this state and speak to them, his Department of Economic Development must provide him the expertise, the background, the knowledge that he needs to convince those people. The top salesman of the state is always going to be the Governor. I think that to that extent the DeCamp amendment is not really that important because if you have a strong Governor, the commission is going to listen to that Governor. I think there are good arguments on both sides,