

committee worth, ladies and gentlemen? You all know what it is worth. Not the sweat off your brow. It has no credible value to a person who is employed in a responsible government. He will tell you to go back home and you are going to go back home and that is it. Most people will no longer serve on those committees because they have too much respect for their own time to waste it giving their opinion to an individual who has to go back and clear it with one person whose primary purpose is always going to be political.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp. Be careful.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, would you like to close please?

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Very briefly, I understand Senator Schmit's concerns but let me tell you that the question of who hires or fires the Director of the Department of Economic Development under this bill is one small fraction of the total picture of LB 965. LB 965 merges four different bills into it. LB 861 dealing with telecommunications, this bill was from the Governor and it would merge telecommunications under the Department of Economic Development. LB 965 does that, creates a separate division for it. We would have a better, more effective telecommunications effort as a result. Travel and tourism, LB 966, that was a big concern this fall. Senator Pappas mentioned it. Senator Harris, Senator Hannibal, Senator Scofield, all were concerned. This bill codifies an attempt to make it clear how contracts are let and should do a better job so we don't have problems in that area the next time around. Small business bill, LB 967, that is over on Final Reading already. Senator Scofield and Senator Landis have worked hard on that. This bill would again incorporate that under it, set up a separate division in small business development, would provide a coordinated efforts of all small businessmen, would have access to different resources, and that could be a great benefit to all small businessmen across the State of Nebraska. LB 977 introduced by Senator Withem and the Urban Affairs Committee is incorporated into this bill. It sets up a process to handle CDBG grants so that we don't have the problems that we had over that in the previous years, and that is a very important step as well.