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FLOOR DEBATE

February 24, 2005 LB 51, 71, 166, 264, 531, 546

particular point. Again, I think this is just a piece of the puzzle. I know that we do have to prioritize. I would like to see the bill moved on, and then come back to it. If we need to look at reducing the amount, I think we can certainly do that at a later time. And if we take this amendment...if we take that amount out, we are not specifying any particular amount in this bill. So, in response to Senator Chambers also talking about operations, it clearly states in the bill that this money shall not be used for an individual operation. But we're talking about forming partnerships, one operation with another operation. We're talking about forming cooperatives, again, finding some innovative ideas to add some value to...and we have many successful projects that...in fact, we probably have maybe 30 or 40 new businesses that have been developed with that money. So I know Senator Dierks came and also supported the bill and I remember one of the statements he said, that the return on this is going to be fourfold, fivefold. We really don't know. But this is just beginning of seed money and I believe it's an important bill to help keep our young people on...in our rural areas and provide them some opportunities that are not there now. And that little bit of extra capital means a lot when you're starting a new business. I will...Senator Kremer is not available, so I'll turn the rest of my time back over to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Mr. Clerk, items for the record?

CLERK: Mr. President, your Committee on Agriculture reports LB 531 to General File with amendments, and your Committee on Business and Labor reports LB 166 to General File with committee amendments; those two reports signed by their respective Chairs. Hearing notices from Business and Labor Committee. An amendment by Senator Kremer to LB 51, to be printed. Confirmation report from the Agriculture Committee. And priority bill designation: Senator Howard, LB 264; Senator Brown, LB 546. (Legislative Journal pages 605-608.)

Mr. President, I have a priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to bracket LB 71 until May 30, 2005.