

SENATOR MOORE: Well, I don't know on this particular program. There's always a variety of those on the floor that are quick to criticize DED but (interruption).

SENATOR SMITH: Well, let's not talk about those other criticisms. Let's just talk about this one area. You don't know that there has been a misuse of their training funds then at this point?

SENATOR MOORE: Not that I'm aware of, no.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay, I...you know, I just...I guess I just have to go on the information that I have been provided by someone that I trust in Hastings and who has been very much a part of that whole system in the past and is now working in Hastings in that same capacity. And he has told me that there are six communities there that...across the state that have exceeded \$100,000 for training costs and the argument being that you don't know in the future what size of companies will be looking at Nebraska or coming in and that we should base it on need rather than on...and the wide variance that we may have among companies rather than on some sort of a cap that we impose artificially. I will support the Coordsen amendment and I hope the rest of you will also.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hefner. Discussion on the amendment. Senator Korshoj on deck.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. I feel that we need to give the Department of Economic Development the flexibility to operate. A lot of times a \$100,000 won't do the job. This is when you get larger companies interested in coming to Nebraska or expanding in Nebraska and I feel that we need to give them the flexibility. Senator Moore was saying, well, we need to keep a cap on it. I think that we have, and I know we have, qualified people over in the Department of Economic Development that can handle this. I feel that they will use good judgment in deciding how much we can spend and how much there is available in training this work force for these new companies or these new expanded companies. I know of an instance in northeast Nebraska where a large company is located there and, yes, it took over a \$100,000. And we certainly want to do this job training for these companies that are willing to expand or willing to come to