

made on this floor about why do you keep appropriating new money and new people, it should have been a priority. Well, the fact of the matter is that we are basically talking about the Travel and Tourism Division of the Department of Economic Development. To my knowledge, there are three staff people in that division right now. And we are constantly under the gun in this state for having a severely underfunded Travel and Tourism Division. And it is not my intent, by the passage of this bill, to further complicate, further create problems for that division that is already underfunded. For that reason, since this is a special situation of the 125th anniversary, I believe that it is worthwhile to appropriate money for that, and I think it is clear and the reason we have a separate program set up is so we can track the money in the Department of Economic Development. And, yes, I think it's worthwhile to hire one more person to plan this event over the next two years.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Hall, please.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Moore, would you yield to a question?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Moore.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Moore, it's your understanding that the commission would be the employer for this...for these positions? Is that correct?

SENATOR MOORE: Actually, the commission set up would be the actual employer, and it would be housed in a separate...it would be housed in the Department of Economic Development.

SENATOR HALL: Okay. And Travel and Tourism is part of DED?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes.

SENATOR HALL: Okay. How many employees does the Department of Economic Development have?

SENATOR MOORE: I can't answer that off the top of my head. I could find that out for you, and would be glad to do such.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, okay. I can't argue with your comments on travel and tourism in terms of underfunding aspects. But I think they've done an outstanding job, and DED, I know, puts out a fabulous piece of propoganda, I mean, they just do a nice job