

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 2339-40 of the Legislative Journal.) 22 ayes, 12 nays, Madam President, on the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment fails. I will raise the call. Are there further amendments on the desk, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: There are, Madam President. Madam President, the next amendment to the bill is by Senator Wesely. Senator, I have your AM1969. (See page 2340 of the Legislative Journal.) R & D money, Senator, I think.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members, this amendment is brought to you to reduce the funding for the Research and Development Authority by \$480,000 and to require that no more than half of the General Funds that they receive be spent on administrative expenditures and that the total maximum amount of administrative expenditures be no more than \$750,000. I was one of the sponsors of the R & D Authority Act when it was adopted. It was originally introduced by Senator Kerrey, by myself and Senator Morehead. I have since lately been very frustrated with some of the work of the R & D Authority. In fact, it appears to me that in some cases the program that I envisioned and hoped to set up has taken a turn that I do not appreciate. In '90, in '91 it is anticipated that the total expenditures on administration of this program will total somewhere over \$900,000. Likewise, I've got a projection from them that they think the administrative expenditures will again be next year over \$900,000. Now let's think about this. This is a program that has been getting on average about \$2 million a year. So almost half of the money we give to them goes into administration. Now part of the administration includes working with these start-up companies that they're supposed to be giving financial assistance to, but nevertheless, that's a huge amount of money for a program that is really quite small when you think about a \$2 million total. My suggestion is that we spend too much money on administration there and not enough money getting resources into the hands of entrepreneurs in this state to help them move forward with their businesses and their opportunity to expand and create new job opportunities for the State of Nebraska. And there are a number of concerns that I've had and I want to begin by letting you know that there is no impact through this budget cut on the monies intended to go to north