

went down to \$450,000 with \$500,000 in investment support. From July 1, 1990 through April 30, 1991, there have been 17 deals funded at \$5,900,000 in improved investment. And even though in the past there has been a significant administrative cost, and Senator Wesely mentioned about \$900,000, the State of Nebraska has invested with R & D money approximately \$5,900,000 in projects that are very well worthwhile and these projects have been disseminated...could I get a gavel, Madam President, please?

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR ASHFORD: These projects are located throughout the State of Nebraska. I was looking through the prospectus to see if I could find the Scottsbluff company that Senator Wesely talked about and I don't see it. I do see companies located in Lincoln, Ogallala, Plattsmouth, other areas of the state, and the companies are...what's interesting about the list in the prospectus is the diversity of companies. There are software companies, there are marketing companies, there's a company, the robotic company, located in Omaha; a publishing company, design and manufacture of ergonomic solutions, whatever that is; alfalfa agricultural based companies, a D & A Sequencing Service for genetic researchers, that's located in Lincoln; develop fast gas chromatography, that's located in Lincoln. There are companies throughout this state which are innovative, which need the kind of support that the State of Nebraska has given through the R & D Authority. To cut back the appropriation to \$480,000 would effectively stifle the progress that has been made by R & D in the last year where 17 projects have been funded, for 17 deals for a total of \$5,900,000. The other point that I'd like to make too is that the R & D Authority is in the process of cutting back staff. As the R & D progresses, as more and more deals come on line, it becomes...it is not as necessary to keep as many people on staff, the expenses should go down, but I think you have to look at these...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...expenses in a relative sense. Nine-hundred thousand or whatever Senator Wesely has come up with as opposed to 5 million or 6 million in investment, does not seem to be a very significant amount especially when you consider the fact that an awful lot of work and due diligence must be gone through to determine whether or not the state should or should not