

be left in the budget bill. The reason nobody came, especially me, was because, by virtue of its being a recommendation by the Governor, I felt that the committee would accept it. I handed out some material for you in the form of a letter stating activities of the committee so far, the organization that is administering this program, to let you know that loans are being made, projects are being considered and it...the program is known about in the community and there is great support for it. It is difficult to start a new program in less than a year and have it running full speed ahead in the way that it should. I am a member of the Board of Directors, Senator Schrock, and I haven't been able to make all the meetings because of legislative activities but every time I go to a meeting there is something that I have to do in the nature of what you might call whip-cracking to make sure that the committee, the board is doing what it ought to do. One change I had to force...not force upon them, persuade them to adopt, was allowing loans of less than \$25,000. For some reason, they felt such loans should not be given. There was a concrete example of a lady who was starting a custom sewing, tailoring business and all she needed was \$8,000. She didn't want to pay overhead or anything else that would necessitate an additional \$17,000 but, because of that rule that had been adopted for some reason, she could not get a loan. Her business plan, her financial statement, everything was in order. Her business was already going so it was a certainty that she would pay the money back. Well, after I had talked to the board, they agreed that they would scrap that rule. She got her loan and her business is off and running. I mentioned that to say this, in my community there have been many programs that were supposed to be geared toward economic development which resulted in money coming into the community and being frittered away on friends, relatives or certain individuals who were to be favored. I wanted to be sure that since my name was the name on the bill that created this program, since I am a member of the board, that this one was going to be a program of substance, properly administered, fairly operated. They had not, even in the early days, formulated an application form which everybody would receive. The former director wanted to require people to file eight copies. They had to pay a filing fee, and I told them that if people are coming here because they need money, they certainly should not have to borrow money to have enough to file an application. So a standard uniform application blank was put together. I wanted that so anybody who applied for a loan would get the same kind of paperwork to be filled out. It couldn't be