

will be well spent, and for the amount of money that we do spend on programs for unemployment or welfare programs, when you are giving these people an opportunity to start businesses, businesses that will stay in that area, I think it is money very well spent. So I am going to be supporting the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Abboud. Senator Ashford, followed by Senators Crosby, Lynch, and Lindsay. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President. Now that Senator Moore has said he probably wouldn't support the 500,000, I feel released to say I can support the million dollar appropriation. Seriously, this is, I think, a very worthwhile and serious effort. When the bill was originally passed I believe last year, I supported it and it was at a million dollar level. And I would support the million dollar appropriation today. Senator Chambers mentioned that he doesn't know how much money has been spent in his community over the last several years, government money, and there is no particular way of knowing that, necessarily. I would suggest that there probably has been a lot of money spent in the north Omaha community in the last 30 or 40 years that has not been spent in a way that returned the kind of dividends that I think this kind of money can return. You know, as a society, I think we've for many, many years thought that the best way to solve societal problems in areas that were tended to be disadvantaged was to throw a substantial amount of money at the problems and then hope somehow that out of that would come some substantial advancements. And I think what Senator Chambers is getting at here and what is really important about this is that it's such a people-related effort. Rather than throwing large sums of money at a part of the community that someone has designated as in need of it, we are looking at the people within that community who are properly motivated and have motivated themselves to get into the system and to develop products and services and businesses that will not only provide potentially income for them but for others in the community. Again, getting back to the idea that at least I buy into, that is a small business, small to medium sized businesses are the backbone of our capitalist society, and if we want that, the benefits of that society to reach to all of our citizens, I think we need to bend over backwards and maybe even do a little more in the areas that have not had the opportunities that those