

direction that the R&D Authority has taken recently. I think that, for the most part though, that the Research and Development Authority, its mission has not wavered in what it attempts to do and when it was originally established, not all that long ago, it was given money and the money was to be used for investing in the worthwhile programs that they felt would allow certain companies to grow and prosper in this state. The idea instead of spending millions of dollars to attract a Saturn plant from General Motors or a large facility from Boeing or anything, instead of bringing them in, spending money, the idea was to provide seed capital so that that company could grow in the state and that philosophy has not changed. We've had change in the administration of that agency but we have not changed in that philosophy. I feel that what I've seen from them so far has been that they've done a good job and the idea behind the Nebraska R&D Authority is not that they are supposed to pay back completely all of the money that they have in the first initial years. The payback is over a number of years period and the breakdowns that I've seen there are that a lot of these investments have been very worthwhile and it just so happens that Senator Crosby described one that we recently received some information on and that...that particular project was in my district, the first one, but it...they've made a number of investments in the Omaha metropolitan area. The company that has been started out in my area, it makes computer discs or puts the covers on the discs. The individuals that are involved in the investment were, prior to this time, working for Control Data and the individual had a number of patents on these types of discs and he saw an opportunity to start a new business and the R&D Authority provided capital. In addition, they received capital from a large venture capital firm in Dallas and so they...essentially what it does is they get seed money from the R&D Authority, then they get money from venture capital companies throughout the nation and then they start their business here in Omaha. And the biggest problem that you have with a lot of these companies is that it is getting that initial capital to get started. They may have a great idea, but if they don't have the money to open up their doors and begin production, then it is not going to go anywhere, and that is what the company is all about. It is going to have its share of failures because not every company is going to be a success, and there is a high rate of failure. But every now and then, you will hit on a company that will grow and prosper in this state. I can recall ConAgra not that long ago was a rather small grain company in this state, and it has grown into a rather sizeable