

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. The Chair would like to recognize some guests that have been here for a while. I apologize for not introducing them earlier. Senator Schmitt has eight eighth graders from Petersberg Public School in the north balcony along with Kris Grundermayer and Senator Hillman has a guest from Gordon, Nebraska, Cyd Janssen is under the south balcony, if the Legislature would please welcome them. There are several lights on. Senator Schimek, followed by Senators Hartnett, Maurstad and Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body, actually, Senator Vrtiska, you did such a good job on your opening even though I had my light on I only have one question left out of a number of questions that I had. But as I understand it, there would be no businesses or start-up businesses that would directly benefit from this fund. It is more a fund to provide ways to encourage them to get started. Is that a correct interpretation?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: No, that's not exactly right. Certainly there would be funds for start-up businesses for entrepreneurship and those kind of people, but I guess the issue that maybe I need to talk to you about a little bit is what we're talking about is cooperation between communities, between a business that might want to start and certainly between more than one agency because the name partnership was put into this simply because we say we need to work together. What we have now is, I'm sure you're aware of, is there are a lot of communities who have economic development directors and who directly working with economic development. Obviously many of the small communities don't have it and they can't afford to have it. What we're saying is they need to collaborate and get together and come up with an idea and then assist somebody in moving in there and maybe starting up a new small business. Certainly with \$250,000 you're not going to attract General Motors into Nebraska, but some small five and six and eight and ten job business could be started up with this kind of funding.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: So for example a community like Fall City for example in your district, might be eligible and receive a grant for \$50,000 to work collaboratively within the community to start something. But their project would involve dispersing