

SENATOR VRTISKA: Absolutely not.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: In Section 23 we talk about strengthening rural communities, do you see a problem if there isn't a population restriction of some kind in not being able to meet that particular goal?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well the purpose obviously is to help any community who is willing to cooperate with other agencies and other communities in applying for the grant funds and so it means that a city the size of Beatrice, Falls City, Nebraska City could work with a community in their area or an agency in their area to apply for these funds.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: What would you think the typical size of these grants would be?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well, I'm...I guess that's a difficult question but I'm guessing that most of these grants will probably be to the type of company that would be employing maybe from five to ten people. Certainly, if you're getting...and I wouldn't say they would be restricted to that, there may be many occasions where that may not be true. But the small amount of money, the \$250,000 certainly is not a large amount of money to attract a great big industry I wouldn't think.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: So less than \$50,000 do you think a typical grant would be or do you see the rules and regulations having a cap or a limit on the dollar amount for a particular grant?

SENATOR VRTISKA: I'm not going to be able to answer that right now but I will add that we intend to work closely with DED. They were with us, they were at all of the meetings or a representative was at all the meetings. They understood the very...I'm sure they understood very well what the intent was by the people who were there and I'm sure that they're going to follow those guidelines as closely as they can when they develop the rules and regs.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Do you anticipate that this would be an additional \$250,000 allocation or would this be coming from current funds that are available to DED? When you were visiting with them, did they happen to give any indication as to whether they were going to allocate these dollars from another source?