

SENATOR VRTISKA: I'm quite sure it is new money that will be allocated to DED.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: You mentioned Beatrice and collaboration and of course Beatrice in Gage County through Gage County Economic Development Corporation for a number of years has done exactly what you're bill would like to encourage other areas of the state to do. Why do you believe that we need a state law to encourage cooperation between counties and towns and RC and Ds and town and that type of thing if it is already going on?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well I just want to say that first of all I applaud Beatrice and some of the communities who have been very forward and worked very hard and put up some of their own dollars in order to have economic development but I think you have to understand as I do that some of the smaller communities just don't have the resources or the technical expertise in order to go after...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...to go after this kind of business ventures and so we feel, I feel, and I'm sure that the committee felt that there needs to be a statewide in order to attract more industry, in particular smaller industries, all across the state.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yeah, and, Senator, I certainly don't disagree with that at all except that it appears that LB 144 would limit to 10 percent of the grant funds the types of activities that most small communities have the most difficulty in getting going and that is the administration, the facilitation of these types of grants and programs. Do you think that 10 percent of an average grant of maybe \$25,000 will be enough to provide the technical expertise that these small communities will need to meet the goals and objectives of LB 144?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well really what the 10 percent is for is for the bookkeeping and that kind of ventures. It really doesn't address...

SPEAKER WITHEM: Time. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of