

the body, Senator Vrtiska, I know we chatted earlier and I know that you're aware of my concerns with the bill and I think I mentioned earlier that I would probably ask some questions on it and would probably vote to move it along one time and wait and see, but I want to tell you up front right now, I'm not sure what I'm going to do when it gets to a vote. I've been listening to the discussion and now I'm getting a little bit more concerned again. Carrying on with what Senator Maurstad was saying, I've got a couple concerns. Number one, I applaud the reason of the bill, I applaud what you're trying to do. I was a part from time to time of your task force that met together and you did an admirable job putting all of that together. The first question I'd like to ask is how did you come up with the \$250,000 number? How was that number picked? My sense is that it was picked...well, how did that number come about?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Well let me tell you, Senator Bernard-Stevens, and you're probably aware of this without me telling you but there was a discussion that there should be a million dollars put into this fund for the purpose of reaching out to more communities all across the state. I was one who said that for a start-up program that we had to sort of learn to crawl before we walk and learn to walk before we run, indicated that I thought that that would be probably not very well accepted by the Legislature, number one, and, number two, probably shouldn't be until we see the effects of the program.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And I think, Senator Vrtiska, that that is I think a good representation of why the number. So members of the body were wondering how that number got in there, that's the rationale that certainly was used and it's a reasonable rationale. Second question I'd like to ask is what is, of all the dollars that we put into DED and of all of the different programs we have for rural economic development and for intergovernmental cooperation and all the things that we have, all the development corporations that are out there not only in North Platte and Dawson County and Lexington and Cozad and all across the state, what, of the dollars that are being spent by communities in DED already, what would this add that is not...we don't have the ability to do now if we had the will to put monies that we already have out there into this program? Do you follow where my question is?

SENATOR VRTISKA: Yes. Senator Chambers, (sic), I think the key