

April 5, 1995

LB 425, 829

is the smaller 775 that the Legislature has out there?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: Senator Bernard-Stevens, I will have to check that out for you. The purpose, if I could just elaborate a little while we are checking this out. The purpose of this bill is to not only help new businesses who might want to start, but businesses that are already in existence who want to expand. You alluded to that expansion of existing businesses, and so that the purpose of this bill is for both purposes, not only bring in new, but you have a viable business in North Platte, they want to expand, and the Economic Development Commission, with their advice, decides it is a good thing, then that this fund is for that purpose, to make a recommendation to the Governor.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Then, Pat, why does it say in this handout you gave me that most retailers do not qualify?

SENATOR ENGEL: Because, again, it is the same qualification as LB 829 and LB 75 (sic) as far as qualification. It is just the numbers that are different.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, and let me get for the record, do most small town retailers, will they apply, will they be qualified to apply under this bill?

SENATOR ENGEL: According to the way I read this, as far as who qualifies, I'd say no.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, so we know now that the small town realtor or not realtor, small town retailers will probably not be able to apply, and that's the point of my argument. If you are talking about being able to let people expand...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ...and those people are trying to have expand can't under this bill, and the question I can't seem to get answered is those economic development packages we have out there, Small Business Administration loans we have out there at the federal level, LB 270 we have out there, LB 775, which is one of the bigger ones, are all of those to the degree that none of those can help the small business area? Are we putting that