

many millions of dollars that we can't help any of these people under the existing programs but we have to have another 6 million, and by the way, when Senator Engel talks about we needed to have at least 3 million or so, or 500,000 just for job training, the Legislature put in last year 6 million new dollars for a special fund that can be used by DED and the Governor to attract businesses specifically for job training. We've already put six million new dollars in there beyond what we've already put in for job training. Now they are saying they are going to have some little dollars in there...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: ... for what they need as well.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Engel.

SENATOR ENGEL: All I would like to say is that this bill, as presented to everyone before, it has been discussed quite profusely, I am sure it will be discussed some more, and there are some amendments coming up, but the reason for this particular bill is the...the definition of economic development, and I have got that here, is a process of creating wealth through the mobilization of human financial capital, physical and natural resources to generate marketable goods and services. Economic development programs attempt to attract, expand, retain or create jobs, generate tax revenue, secure the community's tax base, and promote the community's financial health. And that is from the American Economic Development Council. That's where that comes from. It didn't come from anyone here. So the purpose of LB 425 is, again, to create good jobs that pay good benefits in any area of the state, and it probably primarily will be used in the rural areas, although it could be used in a city such as Omaha or Lincoln.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Engel. Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I, once again, rise in opposition to the Bernard Stevens amendment. I feel as though, if we are going to proceed with LB 425, the SEED bill that primarily is to assist current economic development programs in providing revolving economic development loans, low interest economic development loans, and to coordinate with programs including the Community Development Block Grant