

April 5, 1995

LB 425

businesses can only have a loan, is that correct?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, they'd be eligible also for grants.

SENATOR ROBINSON: For grants, okay, I was told that by someone else and...but likewise, the communities can either have grants or loans?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: That's correct.

SENATOR ROBINSON: How much time do I have left, Madam President?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: You have two and a half minutes, Senator.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Okay. You had mentioned the...what kind of flexibility...you don't feel like the Governor should have some kind of flexibility to go beyond the 25 percent? I guess I have problems with that. Aren't we actually after jobs? That's what we're after. I mean I think we get hung up with percentages sometimes.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator, if your objective is jobs, and I believe that's an appropriate objective, I believe if you'll ask the Department of Economic Development, they will tell you that more jobs are created in the State of Nebraska by small businesses than by any other category of employer and that's on an annual basis. Small businesses create more jobs in the State of Nebraska than anybody else. That's the reason I'm willing and encouraging the body to place that restriction. We need to do more for the small businesses as opposed to the very large businesses. It always seems to me that somehow the very large businesses take care of themselves.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Thank you.

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

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to pull us back into a little bit what the whole purpose of LB 425 is and that's to develop or to create the Selective Enhancement for Economic Development Fund. This is intended to be a supplement to current programs and policies to, with the intent as described by the Governor's Office to provide many times that