

April 6, 1995

LB 425

CLERK: Senator, I'm now back to your other amendment, strike lines 8 to 10.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature, this is an amendment which I'm not going to push to a vote, but I want to discuss it for a few minutes to alert everybody who may have an interest in the bill to an issue that will be addressed on Select File. The lines that I am striking would be in the Wickersham amendment and the proof of the fact that I don't intend to push it to a final vote is that lines 11 and 13 would have to be stricken also to achieve my purposes. What I am concerned about is the size of these companies which can receive this money. I think a policy decision is going to have to be reached by the Legislature. If we feel that companies can be as large as 250 new employees, we're talking about a large company. Either we should take away the limit which Senator Wickersham's amendment places on how much companies with more than 100 employees can take from the fund or we ought to limit the size of the companies that can take the fund. But if we're going to allow companies with this number of employees to get money from this fund, then we should not restrict that amount of money to 25 percent of the fund. A company this size would require, one of these companies by itself would require more than one-fourth of six...well, we're not going to have a full \$6 million, but one-fourth of \$6 million. They could get up to one-fourth of the total amount of the fund. I'd like to ask Senator Wickersham a question or two if I can.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wickersham, when your amendment says in line 8, no more than 25 percent of the fund, does that mean, and I'm going to give three possibilities: One, the total of \$6 million that ultimately will have been appropriated even though at no given time \$6 million may be there, two, \$3 million which would be the amount of each of two separate appropriations or, three, 25 percent of whatever happens to be in the fund at the time a company makes the approach.