

take a loan under this program? What is the rationale for that?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, Senator, the differential between a commercial loan and the kind of low-interest rate loans that might be provided out of this fund could be the make or break issue on a particular development. And that's the...that's the rationale. Primarily, I'm expecting that development would be in something tangible that had associated with it the creation of additional jobs. Presumably, the State of Nebraska gets back the differential between the interest rates in terms of greater taxes, greater employment, greater benefits to its citizens. The business has some advantage on its bottom line at the differential between the low-interest rate loan and whatever that rate is and the commercial rate.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wickersham, the way I look at this, if we have the total amount of money that is to be appropriated actually appropriated, we have not put much money out there. That is not a lot of money and it's going to be over two years, if I understand it correctly.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yeah.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So at no point would the total amount that we're going to appropriate actually be in the fund and available. When you lend to small businesses, we all know that, to use your term "unstable" and be nice, it is a risky proposition and a lot of these loans are going to be bad, meaning they won't be paid off, they will have to be written off. When we start off with such a small amount of money, I would not want to see anybody who could go to a bank or some other lender and obtain a loan, I would not like to see them come in and take the little money out of here. Some of these little businesses are not going to be able to go to the conventional lenders and obtain a loan. So if they cannot, then these other companies that can will take this money. I think it should be a fallback for those who cannot get the loan someplace else. Senator Bernard-Stevens, I would like to ask you a question.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bernard-Stevens, as your amendment is