

you can probably do that for less than \$500,000, but you can't start up a machine shop, you can't start up a ranch or a farm for \$500,000 and it just isn't going to work. So I'm not completely satisfied that the \$250,000 that Senator Bernard-Stevens is suggesting is an appropriate limitation. I believe that the 500,000 dollar limitation is more appropriate as presented in the E & R amendments.

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

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, and, again, it's unfortunate that...usually it's fortunate that we have the A bill following the bill but when you get on Select File and we understand that the real battle is over the dollars, not necessarily the policy, that things get a little awkward. What Senator Wickersham said earlier is what I would like to bring to the body's attention, and I agreed with him. Senator Wickersham, I think rightly so, said that, at its current level of \$6 million, 3 million in each of the next two fiscal years, that he felt it would be appropriate that 500,000 would be the maximum that any one company could get. He also went on to say, and, Bob, correct me if I misstate anything, that if the...if there was a substantial drop in the funding, that maybe at that point it would be...it would be time, at that point, to look at a lower...lower amount. Would that...is that a fair descrip...Senator Wickersham says, is shaking his head, yes, it is. My feeling, and members of the Legislature, I think, are just going to have to vote based upon what they think may happen, my sense is that this bill, if it isn't outright killed, is going to be substantially reduced. And it's with that in mind that I'm trying to put the bill that's going to be ahead of the A bill on Final Reading, trying to get that in a shape that may deal with the eventuality that it will be at a lesser funding. And if, in fact, we are not at a 6 million dollar figure but we're at something substantially less, then you don't want to have the 500,000 dollar cap because if you're at 2 million or less or a million five, or 2.5 or 3 million, you don't have many grants left over if, in fact, there are three or four larger companies that...operations that may take the entire 500,000. So it would seem to me that if our goal on the bill, and I believe it is, is to get as much help as possible to the state to businesses that are not the 775-type businesses, businesses that aren't a Micron type of business but just a general Nebraska business that has a hundred or less employees,