

limited funds, the issue to me is do you spread a limited amount of money over a wide money with little result or do you concentrate in few areas or one area with major result. And I'm inclined to come down on the side of keeping it at 500,000, knowing full well that at that level it limits the use of it, but I also suspect that it's probably going to be much more effective than smaller amounts scattered widely unless it's a series of small entities, business entities that are being assisted and then the 500,000 doesn't probably become a factor in that case. At this point at least, I'm inclined to retain the number where it is for the reason that I think it may be more effective use of the money even if it's more limited than the \$6 million can be demonstrated by using it on one or two projects as opposed to a smaller amount distributed more widely.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Engel, Fisher and Wickersham.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I support Senator Bernard-Stevens' amendment. My view is just the opposite to what I think I understood Senator Warner to say and I stand to be corrected if I misunderstood. It seems to me that he is saying that it would be better to spend a large amount of money on a few projects rather than smaller amounts on a number of other projects. I disagree. First of all, we can only take what the introducer and supporters of this bill tell us is the motivation behind it. We were told that the aim is to help small businesses. We were told that the area of the state to be benefitted is that area known as the rural area. Now we have gone away from saying the rural area and small businesses to a situation where a very large operation, and I say very large relative to the amount of money we have in this entire program as being what it is we're trying to help. We were told early on in the discussion, and Senator Engel can correct me if I've got this wrong, that this is designed to help those businesses that need a little boost to either get over the hump or go around the corner, that they're struggling but they can make it. They just need a little bit of assistance and the purpose of this bill and the money in it is to provide that assistance. Now we're being told something entirely different. I handed around, the other day when we were discussing this, a little chart and it has information, if you still have it, on the bottom lines, from Dun and Bradstreet, and the source of this information is the U.S. Department of Commerce and it relates to county business patterns, 1992, Nebraska,