

and have copies made. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the amendment is coming around and what it will do, and you will see it, is to limit any money from this fund to businesses hiring, having no more than 100 employees. I don't think we've been given the straight story on this bill by anybody. It started out as a slush fund. When that was not going to fly, it was changed, and I've had people from the Department of Economic Development talk to me. I don't trust anybody on this bill or believe anybody on this bill and that doesn't mean each individual supporting the bill or Senator Engel specifically. But I think the bill is a shell game. We were distinctly told over and over that this is a bill to help small businesses. If the amount in this fund, based on a two-year appropriation, is \$6 million, that is what I mean when I say it's not a lot of money for economic development. But I think to allow \$500,000 of that to one business is a large amount from the amount that we're talking about. Either we're aiming at small businesses or we are not. I don't consider 100 employees a small business when you look at the amount of money this fund is supposed to contain at maximum. A copy of the amendment will come around. Senator Wickersham, I wasn't sure that your amendment would be adopted, so there were two versions that I had that I would have substituted. If Senator Engel would answer a question, I would like to pose it. I see he is at his mike now.

SENATOR ENGEL: I'd certainly try, thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Engel, is this bill aimed at helping small businesses or is that not the aim of the bill?

SENATOR ENGEL: The intent of the bill is to help small businesses and like we said with the amendments, we already have the ones that are forthcoming, is 75 percent of the monies will be used for businesses employing 100 or less people. Now it's depending what you consider small, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now why is it necessary to allow any of the money to go to businesses hiring up to 250 people if our aim is to help small businesses?

SENATOR ENGEL: Well, Senator Chambers, there might be a business...one of the big purposes of this bill is to keep people in the State of Nebraska besides bringing new people in. We might have a business that's being lured out of the State of