

few comments he's made as far as we should have a multifaceted program in the State of Nebraska and that's what this is all about. This fulfills the gap between the zero and the 250s, so thank you very much for that, Senator Bernard-Stevens. As far as his restaurants and so forth, we discussed that before and I don't like to discuss things over and over and over again, but in order to keep the restaurants in those little towns you need someone there with jobs who can afford to go to those restaurants and to support them. So those are all comments I'd like to make at this time.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, Senator Engel really did not address the amendment itself and I've talked to some of the senators from areas that are called rural and they are...they share the opinion that if we lower the number of employees that an employer can have in order to qualify for this money, there are businesses in their area that would be in a position to compete for the money and benefit from it. And if you were to make sure this money is directed to those small towns and the small businesses which we were told is why this bill is needed, we would come a lot closer to doing something in the areas where the most employment is provided. On your desk, and maybe nobody will look at it, is...right, Senator Hall looked at it, there is a handout and on the cover it says, I meant the headline or the title, The distribution of Nebraska businesses by employment class, and it consists of two pages and if you look at the second page, you'll see it in a chart-like form of the amounts of employment created by businesses of differing sizes based on the number of employees in those businesses. And I say we're being given a fast shuffle because if it's economic development, it should not be designed to help one or two large businesses, one or two large profitmakers. This amendment...let me ask Senator Engel a question about his bill. Senator Engel,...

SENATOR ENGEL: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is there any requirement that a loan or a grant be tied to the creation of a certain number of new positions?

SENATOR ENGEL: No, from zero to 250.