

where you just say this is another economic development program, so-called, stacked on others. This is to occupy a special place, and that special place is determined by the presence of these words, and these words that I am referring to state the following, "and to remain competitive with those of other states and localities." The purpose of this money was to go to those situations which would result or which were created because competing states were trying to pull these businesses out of Nebraska to their state, or to entice another...a business that was coming to Nebraska to their state. So these words were put into the bill by those who drafted it, so that the purpose of the money would be to keep Nebraska competitive with other states. That's why they insisted that those words be left in the bill. And they convinced me, in reality, without quite the battering that I said that I took, that those words were words that would restrict the use of this money. The amount was so small, relatively speaking, that there should be a special set of circumstances in which the money would be used and made available, and that circumstance was to keep Nebraska competitive with other states and localities trying to lure those businesses to their states and localities. So now we are being shown again, and by the way, I am not attacking Senator Wickersham. He is the one who offered the amendment. The ones who originated this bill have told us differing stories. Every time one of the reasons they gave for the bill has been run to the ground, they put something else in it to make it go a different way. We went from these small businesses to saying 250, well, \$500,000 could be taken by one business. As much as 25 percent of the total fund can be taken by businesses hiring up to 250 people, which is not small. We were told it is designed to help the rural areas, but it can go to money...to businesses in the middle of Omaha. We were told that these words that I am talking about had to be left in the bill to narrow its reach appropriately to meet the purposes intended by those who brought the legislation into being. Now they are changing the story again, and they are saying we don't want those limiting words. We don't really mean that the purpose of this bill was to keep Nebraska competitive. We just want one of those additional programs, without limitation, to give away this money. That argument that was made about the nature of this program being just another one of those to give sugar to these businesses was counteracted...

SENATOR HALL: One minute.