

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 24, 2005 LB 71

the body, you know, one of the things that you want to guaranteed to get nothing is to...you guarantee if you do it...if you do nothing, you're going to get a guarantee you'll get nothing. And I think this has been a very successful program. We did cut the funding because of the struggle we had, and it was a very difficult decision, particularly on my part, because I thought it was one of the most successful programs we've had. I will say we're going to have several proposals coming forward. I know the Revenue Committee is working on some. I do not know what they're going to have. I've got a couple myself in that committee. But this is one program that's had a fairly good track record of success, and I think along with that we have to expect some failures. There were some failures. But if you take no risks, you're certainly going to get nothing back, and that's kind of the entrepreneurial thing that I think this particular bill has really encouraged. KAAPA, the two front...the two on the front, are one of the most successful self-help programs that's gone on in the state. We have a highly successful ethanol plant at Axtell and they are even, I think, on the verge of expanding. And remember, their money has to be...this is match money, so if there was some money lost, so did the group that used the money. In the case of the one Senator Chambers raised, was the sunflowers, those people lost the money, too. Not every business is successful, whether you're in the restaurant business, the farming business or anything else, so there's some risk. And to some degree I think this does provide some money so people can make studies to see if there is a risk or not. This is seed money in many cases, and perhaps \$1 million is plenty, but I think this ought to advance at this point, at least a couple times, until it plays out against all the other requirements that are going to be there, demands, if you will, the regular budget, if you will, that's going to be coming. But it appears to me, because of the success of this, it ought to be one that's on the top line when we get there. I noticed in the paper this morning the USDA is going to cut a lot of their grants that would cover many of these kind of areas at the federal level. I know Nebraska is going to have to make some decisions what our priorities are, but because of the track record that this has, I think this one at least ought to stand out for a few more weeks or a few more months until we get till May and to see how it fits in. And