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

March 30, 2005 LB 273

accomplish. We need to lump the dollars together and make a difference. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr...rather, Senator Redfield. Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the I believe that there is some confusion and I don't exactly know, but Senator Synowiecki's amendment, I believe, was to the committee amendments which did add those two enterprise which we're talking about depressed communities. And I guess that's really what we were talking about in rural Nebraska is looking at those depressed communities. Also, Synowiecki's amendment changed the funding to \$1 million. think we have to keep that in mind as we are discussing And I was in the midst last time of sharing bill right now. with you, because this bill has to do with entrepreneurship and is something that, according to the Center for Entrepreneurial Leadership Clearing House, on entrepreneurial education Nebraska was among the bottom ten states in the entrepreneurial activity. Again, this is what this bill is centering on is trying to develop those entrepreneurs in communities, but first of all, giving some grant money to these communities so that they may educate and develop some community leaders and then fill that gap. Right now, there is a huge gap between the resource providers and the entrepreneurs, and this leadership will help communities learn to help themselves and sustain themselves in the future. As I said earlier, one time we did...a few years ago, we did have a rural development program. I think it was introduced in 2000. It was one program that was supposed to meet all of our needs. Well, let me tell you, in Nebraska that doesn't work. I know that we need to work together in looking at what programs might be but we do...we have very many diversified communities across the state. have many communities of different sizes, and these are what we're trying to fit in. These are all tools that we can use in the different communities. One has an emphasis on marketing, one might have an emphasis on leadership development. Most all of them have different emphasis, so...and we're not talking about huge amounts of money. But \$25,000 for a person that is just beginning a new business does make a difference. He can