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and get something out of the committee, Senator Cornett sought a compromise to do economic development and to at least have that component get out of the committee and to be able to help the defense contractors to be able to provide these jobs and have people to fill those jobs in her district. And again, Senator Engel, these are good-paying jobs and, as both Senator Landis and Senator Connealy said, the base before this would even come into play would be \$40,000. These jobs would pay well over \$40,000 per job before the provisions of the committee amendment would even go into effect. So Senator Cornett's original bill was a bill to reward veterans.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: One minute.

SENATOR PREISTER: She's going to continue to pursue that. The committee amendment is now an economic development tool, and that's what we're looking at, not a reward to veterans. This is an economic development incentive bill as the committee amended it, and that's essentially what we're looking at--an opportunity to provide incentives to keep people here who have security clearances to work in these defense contractor positions. And those folks can go anywhere in the country and demand this salary. With the committee amendment, we're trying to keep them here in Nebraska and save the cost of providing the \$60,000 cost to get those security clearances to these defense contractors. There is that distinction and that's what I wanted to bring to your attention. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Redfield, your light is next.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I want to tell you that when we look at a military base we think about military people, and when you look at the payroll, in fact, it's true there are 8,481 military members that were assigned to Offutt in 2003, but there were also civilians that worked on the base. There were 2,019 civilians from Nebraska that were employed there; in addition, another 1,553 other civilians who were employed on the base. So 3,500 Nebraskans had jobs because that base is here. Senator Cornett has a legitimate concern. Every time we hear the federal