

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature, I note on the trailer bill that there is 100,000 a year allocated to agriculture and to economic development for international trade and those in the Banking Committee will recall that I had a bill to pursue this issue and one of the reasons we didn't advance the bill was we were worried about the cost involved, so I find it interesting. But the thing about it is, we have...we do not have a strategy on international trade that we need to have that we attempt to try and put in place with a bill, LB 793 that that's still in the Banking Committee and my thought on international trade is that we need...we're maybe last in the country in what effort we put forward on international trade so there's no doubt about the fact that we need to enhance that activity. But the problem is, I think, and I'm going to ask Senator Wehrbein to talk about this, I think this money is more or less to send folks off and do some traveling, pop in on an individual and say hi, how you doing, could we get some business from you. When really what we ought to be doing is working with our local businesses and developing networks and providing assistance and building up the infrastructure within the State of Nebraska for the companies themselves to work together to reach out and open up markets. I just think the strategy is wrong at this point, but I'm going to ask Senator Wehrbein, am I right, is this money primarily just for sending people overseas on travel expenses or can you tell us more about what that money is going to be used for?

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Senator Wesely, I would understand that it way, that this is...these are trade initiatives, it's a Governor's initiative in this case to expand the trading contacts worldwide. So that's why some of it is in ag because I explained yesterday, some of these cross over between agriculture and agribusiness and straight commerce issues, if you will, if they can be distinguishable. Might not even be fair to distinguish between the two because we all know trade contacts are a variety of ways that that is done but this is the funding for that for expanded contacts however they may be. I would assume a lot of it will be for travel.

SENATOR WESELY: Well I appreciate that. I, again, I'm going to try and...I won't hold up the bill or do anything at this point, but I'm giving notice that if you're interested in that issue that I will try to talk to the two agencies involved and