

do something about that problem. Now we can turn to the Department of Economic Development and say you should do a better job and good luck to you and I understand that, but obviously they have had that charge and I'm not sure they have done what they should be doing over there and this administrative branch, executive branch, legislative branch, we've got to have some cooperation and this legislative branch has not been doing enough to work with the executive branch in getting the job done in economic development. We ourselves do not have any staff right now on board with an expertise in economic development. We went to the Research Office and said, could you loan us somebody? They said, no, we're too busy and we don't have anybody that's really got an expertise. We looked at other staffing of senators and committees and there was none to be found and so we had to make a special effort. We're not asking for new money, we're redirecting some other money and we've found an individual, a consultant, Don Macke who has been working with us now for a number of months and, in fact, the last two months has been working without any money yet because we're waiting for this bill to pass and with that we've been able to accomplish great things. We've had a number of bills come through, we have a package of legislation that will be brought up in the next week or two on the floor of the Legislature. This Legislature has a responsibility and I think if you want to go back to your districts and argue that, well, we'll let the executive branch handle economic development, you know, we don't want to get involved. That's fine, but I'll bet you nine to one or more that people are going to say, my gosh, you're responsible for helping our economy, why don't you get something going up there. And I'm telling you, we are getting something going because of this committee, because of that staffing, because of the effort we have undertaken, you are going to be presented with a package of bills that I think will be very impressive. We have a chance this session to accomplish great things and over the interim we're going to do an excellent study and all of you are invited to participate. It's not just the committee, it's going to be all senators will be kept up to date. We'll be sending briefing materials to you and it will help all of us to do a better job on economic development so please, for the 8,000 we're talking about here, keep it in the budget, support the Appropriations Committee and let us not go forward without any sort of any effort in this area whatsoever.