

April 1, 1986

LB 1251

SENATOR MOREHEAD: I will reserve my comments for closing then.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Okay. Then Senator Hannibal on the Morehead amendment, please.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Chairman and members, I rise to oppose the amendment by Senator Morehead. I understand that Senator Wesely, and I'm sorry I didn't hear his comments, Senator Wesely gave you a brief overview of what exactly happened with NTAC. And at the risk of being redundant to what he had said, I will repeat very briefly that this program, Technical Assistance Center, was phased out voluntarily by the Department of Economic Development, and they used some other funds to fund something after we said we didn't want them to fund this. And then last year, in a special session, we decided if they thought the program was so important that we would leave language in the bill, LB 1, that would allow them to continue the NTAC program, if they could find the funds within their budget, which they did. However, I might point out to you that NTAC was offered up by the Department of Economic Development as one of the 5 percent cuts that they, they decided would be the least essential to their business. And I find it interesting that when they put it on the low priority end of their agency's operations, that all of a sudden it becomes a very high priority when it comes out to the floor looking for additional money from the General Fund budget. Because of that, and because of another bill we have floating around, LB 850 that is dealing not with \$42,000 but rather is dealing with \$2 million that would be doing essentially the same kind of thing that is being introduced, I believe it is Senator Morehead's priority bill, is it not; Senator Morehead's priority bill for \$2 million to do essentially the same kind of thing, I think it was introduced by the Governor, that would talk about helping industry and get things started but be a little more market oriented, market driven to have those funds going the proper places based on what could be legitimate spin-offs for economic growth. I see the additional \$42,000 over and above the possible \$2 million that could be generated into contracting with the University of Nebraska and be done more on a market-driven approach than just having, as some would argue, an ivory tower approach. I see the additional \$42,000 as being completely unnecessary. And I would hope you would vote against this amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Morehead, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

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