

and not cut it from the budget. Then finally the Technical Assistance Center on which we did send out material around to you, the Technical Assistance Center would be cut \$60,000. This amount of money is very vital to that program. It has been started and now, since January, has helped almost 1,000 businesses and made that number of contacts across the state. It is an outreach program that I think is very vital to the University and an example of what we need more of, not less of, from that institution. The help that they provide has already resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars in savings to our businesses in the state that have utilized it. Hopefully more businesses will utilize it in the future. So this is an important program that has served well already in its first year, has a bright future, and ought not be defunded at this time. I will tell you that a follow-up amendment, if I should fail in getting the money back in, one which I have talked to Senator Hannibal about, would authorize the continuation of the Technical Assistance Center minus the funding. These are very complicated budgets. It is going to be argued by the Appropriations Committee that money is there to provide for these and that we don't really need to worry about the cuts. I don't necessarily disagree because I'm not an expert on the budget. I'm saying that if that money is there and it is put to good use now and it is vital to our economic development, ought not we continue to have that money there available, and available to be used in a very important fashion? So I'd ask that the two sections of this motion be considered separately, the \$200,000 to reinsert money for the ag research, and the \$60,000 reinserted for the Technical Assistance Center.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Did you ask for a division, Senator Wesely? Two or three?

SENATOR WESELY: I'm asking that right now the amendment would have three items, the \$60,000 item, a \$100,000 item, and a \$200,000 item. I'd ask to delete the 100,000 and not have that considered, and then divide the 60 and 200 thousand into two separate votes.

CLERK: Senator, if I might, it also has decreased Cash Fund. Do you want that out of there as well?

SENATOR WESELY: No, that would tie into the other \$200,000 General Fund.