

members, in response to Senator Johnson's questions, technically they did go against our wishes. But I must point out in their defense that they did enter into a contract. The date of the contract that I have was dated on December 20 of '84, before we met and before we told them to stop it. So it is very possible that they felt they had a contract to continue, and they did come up with those funds. Our only point is they can continue to come up with those funds other than specific General Funds, and they can do that within their budget. As far as Senator Morehead has pointed out with the department, remember that we do have a new director. We have a man who is very dedicated. I have pledged my support to work with him and turn that department into a very viable and futuristic department. I know that many of the people on this floor feel the same way. By allowing them to have this Technical Assistance Center to continue I think is one way of showing our support for economic development in the state. I would urge the approval of the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you. I'll make this very brief. I echo the same things with Senator Wesely and I'm very glad that Senator Hannibal has taken the stand that he has. I cannot defend the way the department has been handled in the past. But for goodness sakes, folks, be responsible citizens, think of the State of Nebraska. We're talking about new business, new industry and so on. Give them the chance to operate a very good program. Forget your politics and whether it has been good or bad in the past. Think of what we have to do for the state. I'll stop with that.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. Speaker, very briefly I just wanted to respond to Senator Johnson's comments because he really touched a nerve. When he made his remarks I thought, yes, I'm going to go with him, he's right. Then I got to thinking a little bit. I've had a lot of differences with the Department of Economic Development this year. It's very tempting to do what he said, to show them that they can't operate outside the law, that they have to operate properly. Then I got to looking at this program. Probably the cooler, more sensible thing to do is to look at this program. This is a good program, this is the type of thing we're going to