

SENATOR SCHMIT: Very well Mr. President. I think that there has been some discussion relative to the fact that in this morning's paper the University of Wisconsin indicates that they want to build a school of veterinary medicine also does Nebraska and so do many other states. But wanting to build one and getting it built are two entirely different issues. Also I want to remind you that any time any state indicates any interest in the construction of a school for veterinary medicine immediately those schools or those states in surrounding areas suddenly become more magnanimous in their approach towards finding spots for Nebraska students than they have been in the past. This is a natural inclination on the part of those states because they do not like to lose the revenue that is guaranteed from Nebraska from our students. But the very facts are that as soon as the thing quiets down, those slots disappear. Now I know there had been attempts made by members of this body to find slots for students in surrounding states so that we do not need to build this school. I want to say this. There is no member of this body that has contacted as many of these states as I have in an attempt to locate additional spots for students of veterinary medicine. Over the past ten years I have contacted every single school of veterinary medicine. We even went so far as to find guaranteed slots again, as I told you, at Pennsylvania and Cornell. We even went so far as to appropriate the necessary funds to send those students there. When it came right down to the bottom wire we were unable to close the agreements. First of all Pennsylvania is a private school and we can not use tax money in support of students at that school. Secondly, Cornell being an eastern school does not deal in the type of animal medicine that is of primary interest to us here in Nebraska. So, at this time there is no real basis to believe that we can secure additional slots in substantial numbers in other schools. There may be some variation from time to time, but you can put it on this basis. Would you want to place the education of Nebraska lawyers, Nebraska doctors, Nebraska teachers on the mercy of some other state institution? I think not. Nebraska has a two billion dollar plus livestock industry. It is the basis of our agriculture. If you think in your own mind, in your own hearts that that kind of an industry which supports every single one of us is not worthy of a six million dollar investment, then vote against the bill. If you think, and I want to say this at this time, we have built new schools, new structures for various other departments of education. We built a school of law. We built a school of dentistry. We are now talking about a 6.2 million dollar theater arts building. I guess it is a good investment. But if the livestock industry of this state is not worth the equivalent amount of money, then we had better fold up the shop and go home. Because believe it or not, I believe that even in