

veterinarians. I would have to say at this time that it is rather economical for us to contract with neighboring schools so long as we are able to write those contracts. I would have to say also that at the present time those of us in the livestock industry are well served by the veterinary profession in the State of Nebraska. In fact there have at times been local areas where a surplus of veterinarians do occur. There have been some other arguments that have said in principle that new students of veterinary medicine will in fact not contribute to the problem that exists with live animal, the shortage of live animal practitioners because there is an added emphasis upon small animal practice by those individuals who enter the profession at the present time. I would have to also emphasize that research would indicate that approximately one half of the students at a School of Veterinary Medicine will in fact be women and arguments are offered that women would not be able to take care of the needs of a large animal practice as well as men have in the past and, therefore, we are further not addressing the problem in the proper manner. I would just like to say this that the old days when the veterinarian went out to the farm and lariat a steer and drag him to the bumper of the pickup and treated him are for all practical purposes gone. Today the livestock industry is far more sophisticated than that. Veterinarians are well equipped, excellently trained, highly educated and their time is far too valuable to spend their time playing cowboy running down a steer or a hog or a horse on a farm. Those of us who are in the industry must, of course, accommodate ourself to these changes. Good equipment properly installed provide that you don't have to weigh two hundred and sixty pounds like my good friend, well, I shouldn't mention, Doc Hasselbalch or Doc Chalk up north, but they are built to wrestle those animals if they have to but today with proper equipment a person who is not physically strong can, in effect, handle large animals. This does not mean that the small animal practice is not a very important part of the industry today, and although I can't stand here and offer any figures that would tell about the economic benefits to Nebraskans because of the small animal practice or because of the various industry that support the small animal practices, I want to say that they are an important part of this state's economy. But first and foremost the reason for a School of Veterinary Medicine in Nebraska is to provide adequate veterinary care for our billion dollar plus livestock industry. Here in Nebraska the livestock industry is the backbone of this state. We produce a lot of feed grains. We produce substantial amounts of wheat. We produce some sugar beets.