

SENATOR CLARK: We are on the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose the committee amendments and in spite of what has been said here this morning and I have purposely not spoken on this issue this morning, there are those that are from rural Nebraska that are concerned about the costs. There are those that are in the livestock industry that are concerned about the costs. There are some of us that know a little something about veterinary schools and the veterinary profession that is also concerned about the costs. Now without getting into a debate as to the merits and the need for a School of Veterinary Medicine in the State of Nebraska, I think what we should think about and talk about is costs. We are talking about dollars and how we are going to expend them. It is that simple. There are some needs for the livestock industry. There are some needs for the veterinarian industry or profession in the State of Nebraska that I think we should meet, that I think is our duty to meet and I will thoroughly admit that it would be very nice if we had our own School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Nebraska and if we could have had one for the last fifty years it would have been nice. I might be the only member of this body that has been in a vet's school. I know what veterinary schools look like from the inside as well as the outside and I know a little bit of something about costs as far as students are concerned. I also know something about their hurt when a student doesn't get accepted. I've got identical twin sons, both of them wanting to be veterinarians. One of them got accepted and the other one didn't. Tell me about how it hurts when a child doesn't get accepted. I know all about it but I will remind this body that whether or not we have our own school doesn't mean that every student that wants to be a veterinarian in the State of Nebraska is going to get in. Nebraska, per capita, has more students in veterinary medicine than some of the other surrounding states that have their own schools but the simple fact of the matter is, as Senator Schmit so eloquently put it a while ago, is we are talking about costs and he is willing to build it himself or build it ourselves. He is willing to start down the road at building our own school by ourselves if necessary and that is the decision that we have to make here this morning. It is very clear. In spite of what LB 245 says, what it really says is an attempt to get around the provision set in the statutes by LB 357 of two years ago. LB 357 of two years ago said that two things had to happen before we could construct a school. We had to have the support of at least two other states. We had to have 50% federal funds. That is in the statutes. That commitment has been made. 245 is an attempt to make an end run around that. We are going to