

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, this amendment, in spite of what some people might think, is being offered in good faith. It was suggested a little bit ago that because I didn't vote for LB 357 two years ago that therefore I was opposed to doing anything for veterinary medicine in the State of Nebraska. I would remind this body that the reason that I voted no on LB 357 two years ago was because I was afraid then, and I still believe, that federal funds will not come. I think the mood in Washington is that it is not going to come and if it does not come then where are we at? I didn't think we could afford to build one by ourselves as I said a while ago. On the other hand, I am not happy with the contract positions we have got right now. I don't like to be left that way, depending on other schools, not providing some of the services to the livestock industry and to the veterinary profession in the State of Nebraska that I think we should provide. And those services are referral clinics, more research, more diagnostic capabilities. I didn't mention it a while ago but diagnostic capabilities, we have some pretty good facilities right now in the State of Nebraska, yet it is about a 70% chance that if you have a sample taken and sent off for a diagnostic...to a diagnostic lab, the results are going to come back from Brookings, South Dakota, and I think that is rather strange. It tells me something about how we spend our funds in this state. We don't expend our funds where they are really needed in this area. This amendment quite simply would say that LB 357 of two years ago, which as I indicated a while ago, required two things to happen, two other states and 50% federal funds, would stay on the books until January 1, 1983. In other words, we are going to wait until January 1, 1983, to see if the federal funds will come, to see if other states will make a commitment and if it does, fine. If the federal funds come and if the other states make the commitment, fine, let's build a vets school. Let's build the vets school under the regional agreement that we have originally agreed to with LB 357 but because of my concerns that the federal funds will not come and because of my concern with building a school by ourselves, then I think that we should look at another alternative. Senator DeCamp mentioned an alternative a while ago and I believe this is an alternative. I think it is a viable one. It was mentioned by Senator Kahle it was going to cost more than the other provision would. Not if we build the other school by ourself, Senator Kahle, not if we operate it by ourself it certainly won't. That is what I am talking about. If we have help from other states, fine. If not, let's look at a regional agreement with an existing school and that is what this amendment does. It sunsets the other provision. If the provisions are not met