

March 17, 1981

LB 245

lost to this state because we did not support him. I am not criticizing the Budget Committee because I am sure they reviewed all of the demands upon them for funds but the facts are that we have not filled all the positions that are available at the Diagnostic Lab even at this time and so I question whether the enthusiasm will be there regardless of what we do without some strong direction from the body as a whole and I think that it is also true that what Senator Vickers proposes to do can be done next year, if and when the federal funds do not come forth as we have indicated several times. Senator Rumery has had conversations with persons who are close to the federal process. He indicated to me that the Reagan administration is not going to cut those funds for extension, not cut those funds for agricultural research as has been proposed by some persons. Only time will tell what will happen there. All of us recognize the necessity for a fallback position or an alternative of some kind or other...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But I think that to propose an alternative program prior to the time that we have failed with the number one priority is a sign of weakness and we should not buy that proposal. Therefore, I would have to oppose the Vickers amendment because, first of all, as I said earlier, I think it is improperly drawn. I don't think it does what Tom wants it to do. Secondly, because if we do not secure the funds as outlined in the bill, we can always come back next year and follow the proposal as outlined by Senator Vickers and those others who signed the amendment. I think it is the second choice position and one which we should not move into a first place position at this time. I ask you to vote against the Vickers amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think probably Senator Warner touched on the very same things that my concerns are and it is difficult for us that are in the livestock business and those of us that represent rural areas to be against anything in the veterinary medicine or anything that deals with livestock that comes before us, and I certainly am not against it. I think my concerns are the commitment to an excessive amount of money without reasonable assurances that we are going to have some cooperation from some states as well as the federal government. We are not assured of any of that and I guess we need to move in some direction to assure those people that have shown some interest that we are sincere and that we are ready to cooperate with them. I believe, and perhaps I am wrong, but I believe that