

I will state directly, "The Board of Regents, University of Nebraska, encourages and supports the regional approach to professional education in veterinarian medicine", but you note they say, "regional approach". They go on to say that, "The Board of Regents in assuming a position for the proposed Regional College of Veterinary Medicine wishes to reaffirm its position that the development and operation of this new college must not be at the expense of the present University program and their existing needs, nor be mandated without the necessary additional resources." They additionally say, "It must involve substantial funding for capital construction other than appropriated state dollars and it must be truly regional with the sharing of commitments, responsibilities and benefits by all participants." Now that is the Regents message. I also say to you that the Regents of Wisconsin recently told the Legislature and the Governor they cannot justify the vet college. A year ago when the Education Committee had a study at the request of Senator Schmit and others, the University of Wisconsin was here and so was Iowa State and other interested parties. They assured us that they would allow us additional seats for students that we have in the State of Nebraska who are interested in pursuing veterinarian medicine and I submit to you today the indications we have had that we can get as many as seventy students into those institutions which do indeed provide a quality veterinary medicine background and are fully accredited and recognized nationally. Now I want to give you a few other facts and I hope that you will listen. I think that by appropriating a few million dollars for further study is a waste of taxpayers dollars because the conclusions would be the same, that we probably cannot justify this kind of a commitment, particularly when we are looking at it by Nebraska as an island. I have yet to hear Montana, Wyoming, North and South Dakota clamoring on our doors wanting to join us. They have not, because I know some of those Senators, some of those legislators. Allocating up to thirty million dollars for initial construction of this facility would be inadequate for an accredited college. We all know that. We are talking about today's dollars not tomorrow's. I believe it would be illogical for us to spend or even indicate that we are willing to go one step further and possibly carry this mission out on our own. There is very little probability that other states will join Nebraska for the purpose of construction or operation of this college. We all know it. Because the federal government today, when they look at the funding of veterinarian college, look at the regional approach not a state approach. We know this. And not only that, but you may notice Governor Reagan, now President Reagan, has advised we should do away with the Old Regional Council. That is on his docket. To me more important is this, much