

so after that debate which had occurred for three consecutive years in the Legislature, I decided to sit down and try to do something positive inside the State of Nebraska in that regard and LB 506 is part of the solution I believe. One thing that I want to point out is that the University of Nebraska has made the decision, and I think a good one, that if the State of Nebraska is not willing to support the Eppley Cancer Institute to the tune of about a half a million dollars a year, then they should close it. There is no reason to support an institution which does not have the financial commitment behind it to do quality research and they have made that decision. And this bill will provide the mechanism to fund Eppley Cancer Research Institute to the tune of a half a million dollars a year so that we can continue that facility in the State of Nebraska. There are several advantages, I think, in continuing the operation of the Eppley Cancer Institute in Nebraska. Primarily is that it will allow us to have an institution that can do quality research on cancer and that that research can be focused on problems that are unique to Nebraska. Some of you may not know but there are areas inside the State of Nebraska where there are alarming rates and incidence of pancreatic cancer. We don't know why this area in the State of Nebraska has rates of cancer considerably in excess of the national average. There is something in that area that is causing that cancer and we should do some specific research to find out what it is so that we can correct that problem. We should find out whether it is chemicals that we are using or what it is that is causing many Nebraskans in this very small section of the state to develop cancer and I think if we continue Eppley Institute and we have state funds we can focus on those problems more specifically. In the past Eppley has already paid for itself many times over with one project alone. They discovered that if you used Vitamin C with some meat preservatives that those meat preservatives will not cause cancer and that allowed the pork industry to keep using a meat preservative that would have otherwise been banned by the Food and Drug Administration. The economic impact of that one research project was tremendous for the State of Nebraska. And what is interesting is that that research project when it was started was not connected in any way, shape or form with the meat industry. It was a result of some basic scientific research that was applied in a way that saved the State of Nebraska, the pork producers in the State of Nebraska millions of dollars. So I think the reputation is there. We have a good facility and we should continue it. Most of the concern has been centered over the other funds that will be appropriated in LB 506. There are approximately \$1.2 million that would be appropriated to cancer research and