

Nebraska. In the last few years we have increased the production of swine tremendously. The quality of the swine and the impact upon Nebraska agriculture and the Nebraska economy has become increasingly important and so, therefore, the swine producers of the state and through their organizations came to the committee and ask there be a bill introduced which would provide for the control and eventual elimination of that disease. Some of you will recall that a number of years ago we used to be plagued with hog cholera and it was a very serious disease for the swine producer. It was determined that the disease could be eradicated, and although it was a long drawn out process, we were able to eradicate the disease and today we have no incidence of hog cholera to my knowledge that exists in the United States. There has been a divergence of opinion relative to whether or not the disease can be wiped out. I would just like to point out that some states have reached the point now where the disease has spread so far that they have given up on trying to control it. We feel here in Nebraska that there is still an excellent chance of controlling the disease. We had an unofficial survey taken at the State Fair. All of the swine that were brought in to the State Fair were blood tested and the samples were checked for positive titer for pseudorabies. Of the 487 samples that were drawn, two were found to be unreadable for various reasons and only one, only one contained a positive indication of the disease of pseudorabies. So although there are what they call "hot spots" of the disease in the state, we still feel that perhaps the disease is not nearly as widespread as some persons feel it might be and, therefore, that it is controllable and it is controllable now at a cost that is manageable and is acceptable whereas otherwise it would not be so if it were allowed to spread. I recognize that we have tried to determine what the cost might be to the state of a control program. At this point we do not have an A bill on LB 36. We have visited with the State Veterinarian. We have visited with other states. We feel that the cost will not be as severe as we had earlier indicated. There was a time when we thought the cost might exceed \$500,000 annually. I am sure it will not be anywhere near that, and at this time if I were to be asked to place an annual appropriation figure on it, I would say certainly less than \$100,000, maybe even less than fifty, and hopefully the cost would be even less. In most instances the swine producers will bear the cost. There are some provisions if we require mandatory testing of another individual's herd where the state has to pick up the cost, and so for that reason we would have to recognize that there may be some fiscal impact. I know again that other members here