

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Schmit, would you like to close?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I want to thank Senator Vickers. You know a soft vote, Senator Vickers, is just as good as an enthusiastic one and they count the same on the board. It is kind of like an enthusiastic veto. It isn't any more death threatening than a reluctant veto, I guess. But I would like to suggest that you listen very carefully, if you will, because there is no doubt in our mind, and the committee probably heard more hours of testimony on this than we have any other bill that we have heard in the last several years. In addition we held, during the first session, we held a second hearing. That has only occurred once or twice in all of the time that I have been in this body on an individual bill. We held the bill over and we, during the interim, held a series of hearings in four different locations across the state, one of them in the Bloomfield, Nebraska, area which is not too far from Senator Peterson's area. There is a very active, a very aggressive group of swine producers up there who were very strongly in favor of the bill. We held a hearing at Beatrice, Nebraska, where there is a large amount of concentration of swine. We held one in Hastings, Nebraska, where we have a tremendously large swine producing operation. By the way, as I understand it, and I may be wrong, but as I understand it, the swine testing station at Clay Center has pseudorabies. As I said, there is a large commercial organization there that has pseudorabies but the average farmer, the average swine producer is going to be, in my opinion, benefited from the bill and there is going to be some problems, that is true, and we have tried to address those problems. When we talk about not knowing enough about it, it is sort of like not knowing enough about smallpox and so we don't do anything. I think that we can live with the bill and we can also live with the disease but which is going to be the lesser cost? The swine industry is a multimillion dollar industry in the State of Nebraska. It is an extremely important industry. We talk about the cost of the bill. The cost to the producers, and I think in fairness to some members of my committee, Senator Nichol and Senator Remmers and Senator Peterson who are concerned about the bill, that is one of their concerns. It is a tremendous cost in some instances to the producer. It is an expensive process to bleed livestock and you can be absolutely certain from the standpoint of a legislator, you are probably not going to get very much flak if you don't pass the bill. You are going to get some disappointed people. The industry will go ahead and do the best they can and you are going to probably have an extremely costly process at some point