

paying the veterinarians to test peoples' hogs.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I guess this is an interesting aspect this morning to determine what we need to do with LB 36. First of all, the king pins of the pork industry are the ones that have brought forth this bill. It didn't come up overnight. It came up over a period of years. It wasn't a shot in the hand sort of thing. They worked within their industry. They worked with the veterinarians. They worked with other states, and in the beginning when this was discussed, the pork producers industry and organization was nearly if not entirely a hundred percent in favor of going with LB 36. The veterinarians were not all that pleased with it. They didn't think it went far enough and finally though in their meeting as I understand it this last fall or spring have supported the bill and would hope that it could be strengthened rather than weakened. I know that all of you received visits from both sides of the issue from people that are involved. I know that the anti-36 people have hired lobbyists and paid them large amounts of money, lobbyists who know nothing about the industry but are now trying to tell us how to operate it. The industry itself has not spent any money. They have been down here in person. There are some around this morning and I am sure there is some of the opposition. The only thing that I could go by, this group that developed the bill are the ones that have been behind the pork industry for the last great number of years, probably 20 years. I have a letter that all of you got, I am sure, that was signed by Carson Rogers, who is a pork producer in the Ord area and has been on the national board the last few years, and he...part of his letter says this: "As concerned producers we are looking at the total swine industry in the state and not just how LB 36 will affect our individual operations. Nebraska has long been recognized as the leading agriculture and livestock state. With your help and support on Senator Schmit's LB 36 we can retain that standing and move forward to first control and then in the future radication of PRV for our swine population in Nebraska." I would like to say a little bit about the population of swine in Nebraska. We received a....I think all of you probably did, an agriculture report a week or two ago stating that, of course, Nebraska now is number one or a close number two, at least, in livestock production of livestock and calves. We are number five in pork production. There are 4,100,000