

included, and the pseudo rabies caseload has been indicated as increased substantially, I believe it's estimated, I think it was indicated 185,000 for the coming biennium compared to '77-78...it was in '87-88 of approximately 76,000. But the anticipated increased testing is as a result of a new state law. There are...it's true that there are no federal funds built into the funding, although it is our understanding, at least the best estimate is that the state will be receiving about 142,000 in federal funds in some portion, certainly not all of it. But perhaps some portion of it, it is anticipated, would go to the veterinary diagnostic lab that would help offset it. Finally, of the expansion programs this was included as an expansion program. In the university's priority list it showed up as 18...number 18 of 18 and was in as a request of \$50,000 in the original request. I'm aware, as I'm sure many of you are, that there are those who have a direct interest in this issue outside of the Legislature that feel that the diagnostic lab has not been funded adequately and that their workload is increasing. And I suppose the question you need to resolve is whether or not the request is as initially, at least, presented by the Legislature is adequate, which was 50,000, which we did not do, or if this is a more appropriate level, and the result of it obviously would be less reliance on any portion of those federal funds and obviously no change in the fee...lab fee rates that currently are being charged. I think that essentially would explain the position of the committee's recommendation for not having included the amount.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Dierks is next, but may I introduce some guests first in the north balcony. Senator Dennis Byars has seven juniors...excuse me, seven junior high students from St. Michael and Fairbury Community Christian Schools at Fairbury with their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. Also in the north balcony Senator Barrett has 11 seventh and eighth graders and their principal from Funk, Nebraska. Would you folks please stand and be recognized. And thank you for visiting us. Senator Schellpeper has some 31 seventh and eighth grade students from Stanton and their teacher. Would you folks please stand and be recognized from Stanton County. We're happy to have all of you visiting us this morning. Senator Dierks, followed by Senator Rogers.

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. President, members of the body, sometimes I guess maybe we have a little difficulty seeing the forest for the trees, I don't know if that's appropriate this morning or