

fund this activity. Senator Bernard-Stevens is absolutely right, the aquaculture position is one that will benefit the state far into the future. It's diversifying our agricultural base, it's a small amount of money that can return many times over, I think, in developing this new industry. And he's absolutely right, I'd ask for your support of this amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Warner, please, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would not describe the committee's action on this issue as unintentional or an oversight. There was quite a bit of discussion and there was some mixed feeling about this program. But there would be three or four reasons why it was not included in the original budget, one of which, of course, is it was not even in the request from the university at all. Now it may be that they are taking the position they are not going to ask for it without the Legislature taking action. That I do not know, but in any event it was not in the request and there were many things that were in their request that were not funded as well at the level that they requested. Almost everything was at a level less than what they were requesting. So it's just another one of these issues, that it is only 50,000. We've been adding several of those, and in time, of course, it will get built up to pretty good size. I rather suspect maybe in a way it makes no difference. There is...whatever is added here I suspect will come out of A bills at some point, or other reductions in the bills at some point. But I would like to make one...a couple of comments. It did not go unnoticed to me during the four day weekend that Nebraska's drought committee has been activated. Conversations I've had this morning, well, I was fortunate where I live that we had some rain. I only had to go a mile, a mile and a half away from...and it was very little rain. I noticed over the weekend they're talking about some of the economic indicators slowing down nationally. And there isn't any doubt in my mind that we need to start doing, as a state, what obviously everybody else in the country is acknowledging, that there is going to be some slow down and we're going to have to probably maintain some pretty substantial reserves, maybe even put some money aside for what is very likely to be some difficult economic times ahead. I would hope, as we start looking at all these additions, while each of them individually viewed can have merit, at some point it will have to stop. I would hope that we could give some thought to not adding every