

don't know how to come in and ask for money. But I think that if there is, indeed, a real future for the aquaculture efforts, and I'm not convinced that there might not be, there may well be, I think that constituency will grow and perhaps a case can be made. But my impression at this point is that there was clearly a better case made for industries that are already there, that are already producing returns to the State of Nebraska, and when it comes to the point of where you decide what to fund and what not to fund, we have typically funded those activities that are ongoing before we expand. So that is the basic rationale, that is not to say that we will not some day do something with aquaculture, but the choice that was made this year was let's first support those ongoing efforts. I think it's perfectly appropriate to ask the university how they make those choices about what they decide to continue and what not, because we may well find ourselves back again next year with programs that we think are ongoing, good programs that for whatever reason don't make the cut at the top level. That process in particular concerns me, and I didn't particularly like the way that process was done this year. So I think it's appropriate that you first direct your questions at the university about how those choices are made. But the main distinction at this point is ongoing program versus a potentially expanding area, and one group having a constituency that is willing to put its...and able to put money behind a program. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Haberman. Senator Haberman. Senator Wehrbein. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I was listening to the debate and don't really know how I'm going to vote on the amendment. My comments are more about, I guess, our process. I'd like to ask Senator Wesely, because he's the one that caught my attention as I was sitting here on a sleepy Monday morning, not paying a lot of attention. Senator Wesely, as I understand what you said, a) the Legislature passed a bill setting up this program, directing the university to hire someone. Did we appropriate specific A bill money to hire that individual?

SENATOR WESELY: The language I read says that the Cooperative Extension Service shall hire one aquaculture specialist.

SENATOR WITHEM: And did we appropriate money for them to hire