

There was \$100,000 request for sustained agriculture that would cover all phases of Nebraska agriculture. We did not fund that. Poultry production in Nebraska, by the way, is \$11,716,000, total poultry production, broilers about 2.3. In other words, we did fund the poultry specialists because that has been requested for several years. The production for fish I was not able to obtain. In other words, a statistician does not keep or does not have records at least on the amount of fish production in Nebraska because it is relatively a fledgling industry. So I'm just trying to put this into perspective that even though this is probably a very reasonable request, we just are not going to be able to fund all of these and that the aquaculture is still a fledgling industry in Nebraska and I guess in my humble opinion it does not justify yet this level of consultation or what have you especially when we have this expertise available from the Game and Parks at this time, at least on...even if it was only a limited scale, it ought to be adequate. So putting these things all in perspective, it doesn't seem to me that we can justify all this and I guess I would take the position that if this is funded, and I admit we're on a roll the last couple days, we've been funding nearly everything, then we ought to seriously consider sustainable agriculture. We ought to seriously consider funding the grain sorghum research advancement and many other good projects that are going to be coming and are just as justifiable.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett, please, followed by Senator Wesely.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members. In spite of the comments of my seatmate and others, I want to get my oar in the water on this issue. It took you a while to catch that one. This has been an issue in some parts of the state, Mr. President, for several years. We had hearings out in my district three to four years ago. This is an issue which has come to fruition. I have a medical doctor in my district that is actually participating in this fish farming industry now. There are a lot of frustrated people out across this state. People on the floor have indicated we have 12 specialists out at Fish and Games, Game and Parks Commission. That is absolutely true but they are not involved in aquaculture. They are involved in streams and lakes and other ventures within the department to the best of my knowledge. We're asking again, this year, as we have in the past, for a mere pittance, \$50,000 for a specialist in aquaculture, an opportunity to build an industry, to diversify industry in this state. About two years