

May 24, 1989

LB 49A, 162

CLERK: (Record vote read as found on pages 2766-67 of the Legislative Journal.) 33 ayes, 10 nays, Mr. President, on the override of LB 49A.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Motion prevails. The veto is overridden.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next motion I have is by Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Johnson would move that LB 162, LB 162 become law notwithstanding the objection of the Governor.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I'll be as brief as possible. I rise with great reluctance because all day long I've been one of the few that's been casting mostly red votes and so, as they say, you reap what you sow and I assume I reaped...I will reap a certain amount of discontent from the body for failing to go along. I suppose there's a good chance that I could have voted green all day and this bill would stand a lot better chance of being approved but, nonetheless, I hope that the body would overlook the fact that a...a battle of personalities and look more closely at the issue at hand, which is the funding of the animal damage program which the funding from the state level was discontinued during the mid special sessions that we had during the Kerrey Administration years and, quite frankly, we're at a point where we're potentially going to lose the remaining federal dollars that we have been receiving unless the state makes some form of an obligation to this program. As has been pointed out before, this program is not just a rural issue or a rural program. It's animal damage personnel serve as communities and urban areas as well as rural areas. Needless to say, the concern is most among the livestock industry of our state. A lot of people worked very hard to get this bill passed. Unfortunately, it was not one of the items the Governor felt was a priorities. I was asked prior to the Governor's vetoes what my priority were for funding as there were really three important bills that came out of the Ag Committee this year. One was LB 162 which we're discussing here, the animal...or the noxious weed program which you've just approved to override the Governor's veto on, and the pseudorabies bill, which Senator Rogers sponsored which the Governor I believe has not yet signed but is planning on doing so. My priority was that this was the most important program because it is receiving no state funding at all at this time. There is a program in effect in about 22 counties across our