

mentioned that wasn't able to get it out of the committee and there are other...there were other interests in the committee for other projects that did get out. I feel that this deserved at least to be considered on the floor. So I guess each of us will have to decide as we move along what you're going to fund and what you're not and you're going to have to probably make more difficult decisions as to what you're going to take out, because with the A bills that we have got advanced, all with great merit in most cases, many of those are not going to survive under our present budget scenario. So I simply will say that I will support this now with the idea that when it comes down to the Final Reading here in another couple weeks it will have to be considered with everything else. But I guess, personally, I'd feel remiss if I didn't make that statement because this is at least an ongoing program. It's maintaining a program we already have. It's not starting a new program and many of the A bills that we have are starting new programs. If you follow the philosophy that we should try to maintain what we're having...what we have, the greenhouse and a research in this area has been ongoing in Nebraska since the year the university was founded. That's one of the basic reasons the university was founded, for research in agriculture. And so I just think it needs to be considered strongly. As I said, it's a program that's going on and it doesn't make sense to me to be spending several millions of dollars for new programs when we can't adequately support the ongoing research and the ongoing programs that we have. It's going to be the heart of the biotech field, greenhouse research. Research in the greenhouse is going to be one of the centers of attention increasingly as we look to improve our plant varieties and so forth. So I would like to have you consider at least at this time supporting this, at least let it hang out there with other deserving, in most cases, and as you make those decisions, I think it's time we all start focusing on what our priorities are going to be.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Moore.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, and members of the body. Last fall picked up a copy of the Lincoln Start one day, late November, and Dr. Bruce Johnson, an economist, ag economist out at the institute had issued a press release that I think gave a little bit of an indication of where agriculture fits in our economy. And, as I recall that particular story, and it was buried in about the third page of the paper, the story related