

CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Debate ceases. Senator Coordsen, would you like to close?

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, yes, I would, as a matter of fact. Senator Moore raised several questions and, as I indicated in my opening, if the university system was able to realize the importance of agriculture to our economy and the value of a domestic food supply system to the United States and the value that our exports have, because of the volume we have available, have in influencing the affairs of the world, and if they were able to be properly aware of all of the impact of agriculture on all of humanity, we wouldn't be here this afternoon at this point in time asking to jump an issue a number, a number of steps up the priority scale for capital construction. It wouldn't be necessary. It would be first. But the system doesn't work that way. Those who work with their hands seem to spend most of their time working with their hands and those who are great articulators of some philosophy or the other are able to convince each other of their higher knowledge and higher place in the general scheme of things. It shouldn't be necessary, but it is necessary. Billions of dollars have accumulated to the economy of the State of Nebraska. There are many graduates working in the state, in the nation and around the world that have come out of our particular College of Agriculture, now the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources. The research that's ongoing there has a great impact upon our environmental concerns, upon species of plants that are more effective in utilizing nitrogen, which is a problem in groundwater contamination, and all of the broad aspects of agriculture which is far too detailed to even begin to talk about this afternoon. Yes, I'm trying to preempt the Board of Regents. Yes, I'm trying to preempt the process. And I'm doing so because I firmly believe I'm right. We have some choices, one of which is to stand still, which is to go backwards. Another is to deemphasize what we're doing in Nebraska with relation to agriculture research and let that be done by other states who have not lessened in their emphasis for the support of the production of food for human beings, the basic support system for life.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: This was a bill, as was indicated by Senator