

works right now, we have counties across the state that are contributing to it, making it work. It is a worthwhile program. It can continue to operate in that fashion. I think the Legislature should continue to say no, not to beginning this program, but to continue to say no to reinstating this program as a state expenditure.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Lynch.

SENATOR LYNCH: Question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: There is no one else wishing to speak on this issue. We will recognize Senator Johnson for closing.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President, members. I have heard the argument for almost as long as I have been here. I was elected in '83 and we made these cuts in '85, so I have been around, and I think the argument has always been, and I appreciate this argument, if you cut the program and don't reestablish it, you don't have to have it in the baseline or mainline budget. But what I am saying is that sometimes the state needs to invest money to make money or to save money. Now last year, or 1990, we saw something like 5,500 sheep or lamb killed in Nebraska. That is just sheep or lambs killed in Nebraska. The value is somewhere close to \$150,000 to the ag producers who raise sheep or lambs in Nebraska. That doesn't deal with calves. That doesn't deal with building damage. That doesn't deal with runway damage. There are a number of programs that this serves, both urban and rural alike, that could be used and utilize this program. I think it is an important investment. I have tried for years to get it refunded, been unsuccessful. I have been successful in this body, quite frankly. It has been the executive office that I have had my problems, but I have heard every year we don't have the money for this and I guess I am going to try and be consistent and persistent in asking for the money. I think it is money well spent. As I said, we have about 23 or 25 counties in Nebraska that currently contract with the animal damage control folks through the USDA to control predators in their counties. Unfortunately, coyotes, or coyotes and dogs and all the other predators don't recognize county lines, and so they just keep moving on into the next county where the program might not be and wreak havoc on the livestock that exists there, the buildings that exist there, the airports, or whatever it might be that are being damaged. I think in the end we can save the