evening. There were only 33 people around at that time and so it was unfortunate that a vote was taken at that point with so few people present to vote. Nonetheless, this bill or this resolution or I should say amendment was only four votes short of the necessary 25 to be adopted. Senator Warner argues that the program is unnecessary, it serves no useful purpose and that the private sector should be able to pick up this program and handle the problem in the private sector. I don't argue that point. Unfortunately, in many cases, a lot of the eradication methods that we used to use in agriculture or in the country have been outlawed or banned by the various federal laws and state laws and a lot of the responsibilities of controlling predators have really been shifted to this predator control program which, unfortunately, in Nebraska was cut in '85 and has never been reestablished. And for the last five or six years, I have tried every year to get the reapproval of funds for the program. I think the program has a useful purpose. I think it serves urban and rural constituents alike. As I said yesterday, it's my opinion that the program is one which we must invest money in order to save money and saving money is really in the private sector.

PRESIDENT MOUL: (Gavel.)

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam President. I now that much of what I'm going to say is for the record so I will just continue. But, in my opinion, this program does have a useful purpose and, hopefully, will receive the funds necessary to reestablish a comprehensive statewide program. As I said yesterday, LB 142 is on Final Reading, awaiting action by this Legislature. I expect that bill would pass if we waited till that time but I'm willing to compromise for a much less figure. And 142, I think, asks for something like $340,000 of state funds for a comprehensive plan. I am willing to take a lot less to reestablish the state's commitment to the program in order to get started to find out whether we can run this program on a more efficient basis in cooperation with the animal damage control personnel program that we have in Nebraska and, hopefully, get the program back and operational for the entire state. We have 25 counties that are contracting right now for protection under this program. We have four other private or quasi public-private entities that are also contracting with these folks for protection. And so I sense that there is support for the program. It's just a matter of whether or not the State of Nebraska wants to be a participant and provide