

the fact that we are pretty well hamstrung as agriculturalists to take care of yourself. And Senator Dierks also made the point about villages and towns where if you have an increasing problem with rats or rabid skunks or any other of the wildlife population that are tending to thrive in many areas, what are they going to do when they reach thresholds that are causing economic damage? And so I have come to support this and I think, with the matching of federal funds, this is half of the request, by the way, this is only half of the request. It's a very modest amount. I'll let Senator Schrock speak for himself, but I think he has come to believe that this is more important perhaps than some other areas in there in the budget that help agriculture. We've come to feel that this is an area that we need to support at this point throughout the State of Nebraska and so I urge your opposition to this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Jones.

SENATOR JONES: Mr. President and members of the body, I want to talk about a predator control that I had problems with last fall that's probably a little bit more important than some of these others. Raccoons got into my silage pile and I covered my "earlage" pile with plastic last fall and they dug holes in it and just literally ruined the plastic that I just put on it and it spilled down in every hole that they dug in. And they wouldn't come back to the second hole the same night, they would make a new hole. But anyway I used this Wayne Holman, which is the one that's in Custer County, and he came in one night and called them in and we got 23 of the raccoons in one night and it was really a help to me because it really cut down my loss on the amount of silage and "earlage" that I lost there. But it's something that I couldn't have done as quick as he did it and control them as quick as he did it. And I've got problems with beaver on my creek, damming up the creek so that you can't get water back up to irrigate, and that's been a big expense for me to try to get that done. And also prairie dogs is bad in my area. So I've got three things in my area. Coyotes never has bothered me because you can always...got some sharpshooters around the country that can get rid of them if they bother you. That's the reason they're not listed up in the Sandhills. You don't have the prairie dogs up there as much as you do on the hard ground where I'm at, and so they're not a big problem up there. And, of course, raccoons are not a big problem up there because they like to get down where there's crops. And so with them two or three things that we really need this money and I