

think the counties really need this support because Custer County, the supervisors are debating about just dropping the whole issue and because they just can't afford it anymore because people are complaining about going over the budget all the time. So I think it's going to be dropped in Custer County if we don't help out some. So I'm really supportive of this and I think it's something that really can be good for agriculture. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the Beutler amendment and would ask for his indulgence. Senator Beutler, I don't think most of us in the rural areas are looking for a handout here or looking for someone to come in and solve our problems. But it's quite a dilemma if you've got beaver on the creek, what do you do with them? Do you call the local contractor to see if he has any dynamite and blow them up? The last time I tried to tear out a beaver dam, I poked one of those sharp sticks into my hand and ended up going to the doctor with infection. And I do have...we do have that problem again on the creek, I guess, and I don't know what to do with it. So where do you go? You ask for...you contact somebody with some expertise. I'm not asking for a handout here. I'm not asking for them to spend a lot of money removing problems on our farm. I don't think my neighbors are either, but it becomes a question of where do you go for expertise. What can you do? What can't you do? What kind of poison can you use? And so I think if we don't have some oversight, it becomes a question of are we going to do the right things or are we going to do the wrong things to take care of these problems? The problems have to be dealt with. You just can't let beavers run wild. You can't let coyotes take calf carcasses. Coyote hides used to be worth anywhere from 50 to 75 dollars a head. I know my neighbor took some to the fur buyer this year and the fur buyer wouldn't take them, so he threw them in the ditch. So there's no economic incentive to take care of coyotes now. So the original A bill, as I understand, was for \$200,000, and the Appropriations Committee tried to be conservative by cutting that in half. I would like to see us give this program a chance to work. It's not a lot of money. I do think there's problems out there. I know Linda Plummer on Senator Dierks' staff was talking to Game and Parks about a goose out at Holmes Lake that had fishing line wrapped around his leg, and they were trying to trap the goose. Well,