

have expertise, as does the university and other organizations. It would seem that assistance is available and will continue to be available even without this additional funding. So considering the bottom line cost of this program, in and of itself, I think it's something that we should not fund. But a second reason that I support Senator Beutler's amendment is that I understand that currently the animal damage control is being investigated by the General Accounting Office for misuse and bad policies. So if we're looking at giving this kind of money to an agency that's being investigated by another federal agency, if they're spending \$50 million to only eliminate roughly 2 million animals, it would seem logical to me that they aren't spending that money very well and that we need to be very cautious, particularly at this time during the budget time when we're eliminating human programs to add money to do damage to animals and may do additional damage to crops and domestic animals. It's my understanding that approximately, according to Animal Damage Control figures, 23 percent of the animals that are caught in the traps are not target animals. So if we're taking animals that are not target animals and we're spending vast sums of money to even do that, then I question how wisely we're spending the money and I think we need to look at this with open eyes and very seriously. I would encourage and hope that others would also support Senator Beutler's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Warner, followed by Senators Beutler, Vrtiska, Bernard-Stevens, Dierks and Robinson.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I've been sitting here...standing here thinking if I really wanted to speak but then I thought maybe I would like to reminisce a little bit, maybe be a little melancholy. In 1985, between the time the appropriation bill left the committee and we dealt with it on Select File, we had about a 24 or 25 million dollar drop in projections for receipts. And those of you that were here will recall...Senator Robinson, you might appreciate the Appropriations Committee volunteered to come back with a series of cuts in the amount of about \$24 million. I sometimes refer to it as the Memorial Day Massacre of 1985 because it was over that weekend. But we developed a bunch of criteria in a matter of a day and one of the criteria was things that people could do for themselves rather than have government do it. It happened that this predator control issue had been something we had looked at several times and this was one of the cuts that we