

recommended. It was 100,000 at that time. Their role was much more restricted then. It was primarily with coyotes, I think. But we were spending 100,000 and there was 200, roughly, 200,000 in federal funds, 300,000 a year, and they were killing about a thousand coyotes a year. That came out \$3,000 a coyote, which is a little higher than the \$25 per animal that Senator Preister just mentioned. But anyway we took that out and the body adopted it, which I won't go through with a lot of circumstances there, but in any event this is about the only thing left of that 24 million that was taken out in 1985 that has not been put back into the budget. We thought we were making permanent cuts and I suppose, to be consistent, why this should probably be put back in since virtually everything else did, and this has been tried several times. And their role has significantly changed, by the way, that's been pointed out, I know that, from what it was then, but, in any event, I'm going to support Senator Beutler's amendment because I like to think that at least there was something in that 24 million that was a permanent cut as opposed to most everything that was not. And I know the merit of the program but that...and times change but I think there is probably justification not to continue this at the state level; start it up again, rather. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, it is kind of a sad reminiscence that making government smaller is so hard. And I ask myself, why is it we get in certain circumstances and we assume that the private enterprise system won't work? I mean, if certain types of animal activities are a problem, why doesn't private enterprise develop that's there and available and ready for a fair price to take care of the problem? We have all kinds of insecticides and all kinds of herbicides and herbicides and all kinds of people willing to tell you how to take care of those problems, sure enough. And I think the truth of the matter is that in any area where there are animal problems there are also private enterprise people who stand ready, willing and able to help you solve your problem in whatever way it needs to be resolved under the federal and state statutes. We have not, by the way, revoked any of the Nebraska laws with regard to predators. We still have the law that says any farmer or rancher owning or operating a farm or ranch may destroy or have destroyed any predator causing any form of agricultural depredation. I know that's not all animals, but that certainly has to do with the larger ones. You say these