

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I thought I would respond briefly to what Senator Vrtiska had to say. Agriculture, of course, is a concern of mine, but the Department of Agriculture issues weekly planting reports, and as of last weekend, 89 percent of the corn in the State of Nebraska was planted. I understand, Senator Vrtiska, that is probably not the case in your area; 79 percent of the beans are planted. Of course, we're behind. The crop development is ten days, maybe even two weeks behind normal. So most of us in the business are hoping for some warm weather this summer. I can tell you, in 1992 we had a frost that came through and devastated parts of Nebraska in the last week of May. In 1993 a wind came through the cornbelt area of the State of Nebraska and was devastating for a lot of people. And last year we had some low prices, but the price of corn has increased about 60 cents since the low last November and December. I think the price will make up for loss in production. Cattle are not rosy, but I can tell you at 65 cents, is what fat cattle are now, they are not losing money. So I think it is too early to yell "wolf" on the ag economy. A matter of fact is most farmers say their wheat crop fails five or six times before they harvest it and usually they harvest a pretty good crop. On the positive side the wheat is looking pretty good. There is always a threat of rust, but I wanted just to address briefly where we are at on the agricultural scene, and I think it is too early to yell "wolf." The prices are looking good. I think we are going to have decreased production but maybe not enough to cause a lot of damage.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Kristensen, your light is next. Senator Kristensen, there is no need. Senator Vrtiska, you are recognized to close on the motion. Excuse me, Senator Wehrbein, I apologize. That would be a mistake of the highest order. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You can repeat it, I didn't even hear it. (Laughter) I think there has been discussion. I think everyone does understand the situation, the issue. I would urge your support for this override, and the Appropriations Committee will go away. Thank you.