

April 30, 1979

LB 357

ago to serve as a special committee to look into this situation which we have been working on ever since. Three of the states or two of the states now, North Dakota and Wyoming, have passed legislation that would allow them to become part of the Old West veterinary project which would be built here in Lincoln. For Senator Koch's benefit, we did visit with Senator Harold Schreier who is the Chairman of the Council of State Governments on Education and he says don't count us out. South Dakota has not decided to come in but he says do not count us out. We really do not know what the status of Montana is. When we had the meeting in Denver, they seemed quite favorable so I am not sure what is going to happen. I think that one thing that Senator Haberman mentioned, Senator Schmit has talked about, is the fact that in order to make this go at all Nebraska is going to have to take some leadership. None of the states are going to come in unless Nebraska has a positive action toward this. We are talking about Wisconsin. If this bill dies here today, I am sure that the trip the people from Wisconsin are going to make this week is useless because there isn't anything more to talk about and I am not willing to build a vet school either until we get the jigsaw puzzle put together. We are talking about federal funds. We are talking about Old West money. We are talking about different states coming in. We are talking about possibly Wisconsin coming in. There isn't any way we can tell you today exactly how this is going to work because we cannot vote for other states and we probably can't even vote for ourselves for funding in the next years to come, but if we do not progress with this, we kill it today, then there certainly will not be any chance of providing a school of veterinary medicine in the State of Nebraska or anywhere else because it will be dead. A couple of things I want you to think about, even at best it is going to be eight years until we have any graduates. So many of those veterinarians who are so afraid today of the competition are going to be eight years closer to retirement and many of them are going to be retired. The other thing is that we haven't begin to scratch the surface I don't believe on the eradicating some of the diseases that plague our livestock industry. Calf scours, for instance, is still one of the dread diseases of the livestockmen. Brucellosis, many other diseases, that we are still having to work at and whip day to day on a day to day basis and the veterinarians are working on this all the time. In the swine industry, we really are behind especially in the State of Nebraska and in those states in the Old West Region. If you want to get an education in swine today, you pretty near have to go to Iowa State because they are the only

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