

this state as a major industry. However, I feel that we have been saying all along that agriculture is our number one industry when, in fact, we probably should acknowledge that possibly insurance is our number one industry in this state. However, the natural resources of our state would say that agriculture is our number one industry. I think that in the protection of this industry we need to adopt a facility and a philosophy like Senator Vickers has proposed. I am having passed around to you an article that says, "UN-L research expands outside the agricultural sector". As Senator Vickers pointed out, we cannot be everything to everybody with only a million and a half people in our state. And not everything good for agriculture comes from strict investments in agricultural enterprise and industries. If you will look at this article, you will see that high tech research, the college of engineering, can and does have the ability to produce agricultural related products and designs from research. So not everything comes from investment in what we perceive to be agricultural entities. This needs to be considered when we talk about investments in our state and the way we are going to spend our monies. I believe that that is important. I would ask that you give a committee the opportunity to evaluate these measures, especially the expensive high dollar investments, any of the medical facilities, the dentistry, the nursing, veterinary medicine, the animal science research, the high tech industries. It is no secret coming out of the Telecommunications Task Force that I have a great deal of interest in a high tech research center. We would like \$2 million of state invested money for seed money to be matched for an ORION project which would over the years ask for private monies, investment from companies, just as does the veterinary science college imply and ask for private monies. We didn't come in and ask for that this year because we could see where the budget was headed. We knew the difficulty that it was in. Now I know that this particular research center is saying in veterinary medicine that we have federal dollars. We need to take advantage of those federal dollars. But sometimes in our rush to take advantage of federal dollars we do not make wise choices for our state in the long run. And I think that a committee such as Senator Vickers is proposing will help us balance that out. Do we need to make our investment in high tech, high tech where one researcher immediately produces 25 other jobs; high tech which recognizes that as we have been saying all along our state needs to expand beyond its dependence