

can oppose it. I think actually this amendment would kill the bill. I say if you want to kill the bill, if you want to vote it down, vote it down but let's not do it in this manner. Now this is substantially the same amendment which was offered in committee. The committee rejected the amendment, did not adopt it and in effect told Senator Vickers that it certainly was his prerogative to offer this amendment on the floor. Now let me point out some of the language which is going to make this bill ineffective. In the first section it says, contiguous states or states in close proximity. Well, close proximity, I don't know exactly what that means but that means somewhere I guess in this local area. But the discussions on the veterinary situation have been with many states and Mississippi State has been mentioned. Now I don't know whether Mississippi State is the one that we will cooperate with or should cooperate with. But I don't want to take them out of the running. At least they are a source of competition, so that if the Regents do finally decide to go with Kansas State or some other contiguous state, they will at least have had the benefit of the input from Mississippi State, the bid, if you will, the bid from Mississippi State, and I might point out that Mississippi State has a new, relatively new veterinary college, one of the best veterinary colleges in the United States and they are highly interested in animal...large animal practice, large animal agriculture. There is no reason that we should adopt an amendment to eliminate them from consideration. I agree that transportation problems are a problem, but there are other things that might make us use Mississippi State rather than one of the states that are nearby. If we don't at least have the option of considering Mississippi State or some other state that is not contiguous, then we are limiting our options and we certainly should not do that. Now as we go farther into the amendment, we see language in there which probably is not germane, but we have not chosen to challenge it on that basis. I would rather vote it up or down on the basis of its merits. I am sure it is not germane. We are doing things in this bill which are far beyond the college of veterinary medicine issue, establishing a committee, a committee which will review all cooperative agreements with other universities in the country and that certainly is beyond the scope of this bill. Now also we are proposing in this amendment, Senator Vickers is proposing to do things that the Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education is charged with, doing things that the University of