

Coordsen, regular order. Please proceed, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 2390-91 of the Legislative Journal.) 19 ayes, 8 nays, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment fails. Mr. Clerk, further amendment on the desk. I will raise the call.

CLERK: Madam President, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Rod Johnson. (See AM1956 on page 2391 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, this amendment would provide \$100,000 for the animal damage control program. I have a bill that is on Final Reading that would call for an expenditure of, I believe, \$340,000 in the program. However, I am willing to compromise with the Appropriations Committee and ask for less to at least get the program started again. This is one of the programs that was victimized some years ago by budget cuts during the recession period that we had in agriculture. And, ironically, now this is the only program that I think still has not been funded in all those years. All the other programs that we cut back at that particular time have been reinstated and refunded. But recognizing the budget crunch that we are facing at this moment, recognizing that I have passed two bills in the last two years to fund the animal damage control program, and both of those were passed by the Legislature but eventually vetoed by the Governor, this is my attempt, at least, to receive at least some state support, that we have something like 25 counties in Nebraska that are participating on their own in the animal damage control program. But we do not have a statewide enforcement program. This, at least, would allow, along with those county funds, some state funds to match those efforts, and along with the federal funds that we are receiving to deal with the animal damage control program that we have in Nebraska. This is control of predators such as coyotes, birds, skunks, any kind of animal that might cause damage to livestock or crops. We annually suffer somewhere between 300 and a half a million dollars in damage from predators in Nebraska to either buildings, to crops, to livestock, and, as I said, this is my effort to try and at least reestablish some state support funding for the animal damage control program. It's \$100,000, it is not what I would like to have, obviously, but at least it