

January 21, 1976

SENATOR MILLS: Thank you.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have an allied question, it has to do with the licensing of egg dealers, or the licensing of egg handlers. I don't know anything about that, in fact, I don't really know enough to ask a question but I'm trying to get a little education here. I'd ask Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Kelly, I believe the last thing, egg handlers at the present time, is carried on by the Department of Agriculture. I don't believe that it would be covered under this bill. If there is anything that needs to be improved in that area I'm sure that the Committee would be willing to listen to it. This is strictly promotion and research, and does not have anything to do with licensing of the handlers, to my knowledge.

SENATOR KELLY: Then probably what I should do would be to write to the Committee and carry on a conversation between me and your Agricultural Committee?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That would be agreeable with me, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Thank you very much.

SENATOR SIMPSON: Senator Syas, did you want to talk on this bill? Then no further lights. Then, Senator Schmit, you might close on the bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: MR. President, members of the Legislature. In answer to the question raised by Senator Burrows, the vast majority of the eggs that are produced, in my area and in the State of Nebraska, are produced under contract. The individual who owns the poultry production house does not own the poultry. He does work for a fixed price, usually that price is established on a long-term contract. It's established for the purpose of trying to give the producer some security in regard to being able to develop a system whereby he can keep himself busy at home and keep himself up to full employment. Now Senator Burrows would have you believe that the contractor, or the individual farmer who has contracted, does not benefit from increase in price. Now that is true from the standpoint of ... from the period of time that the contract is entered into. I would suggest that there is nothing in the world to keep the person whose contracting at this time, upon the enactment of this bill, to enter into an agreement with the company for which he produces the eggs to provide for escalation in the case of price improvement. At the same time, I think, Senator Burrows, you should recognize that the price of eggs moves in both directions. It moves up and down. If that contract price for labor is going to move up with an increase in the price of eggs, perhaps the person who is paying for that labor might also want to include a clause that would provide for a decrease in the contract price, in the event that they go down. So it's a two-edged sword. You can't have it both ways.