

needs to be done to protect first of all the individual who has grain stored on the premises; second, to protect the integrity of the warehouse receipts and third to protect the individual who might have sold grain within a few days prior to the elevator bankruptcy and not have had the opportunity to cash the check. This bill provides additional coverage in those respects. It provides also, and I see there is being circulated a piece of literature which is designed to oppose the portion of the bill which requires that the checks issued up to five days prior to bankruptcy be covered by the bond. I would hope that those amendments when they are offered would be defeated, because I feel very sincerely that there needs to be some kind of protection for that individual who sells, delivers grain to an elevator and unknowingly finds that that elevator is not financially solvent and therefore it requires that it... it doesn't have sufficient funds to cover the checks. The bill also requires that the Department of Environmental Control and the Public Service Commission inspect, during the course of their regular inspections, for those conditions which they feel are conducive to dust explosions. I want to say very frankly that I feel very strongly about this. We have in Bellwood, Nebraska in the last twenty years undergone two major explosions. As you know in one instance two of our local residents died as a result of one of those explosions. I do not, I want to emphasize, I think the vast majority of elevator managers and employees attempt to do a good job of housekeeping but, as we all know, familiarity sort of sometimes leads to complacency. I think it is just good business to allow for the additional inspection and the requirement that if conditions that someone feel leads to a dust explosion are present, that those conditions be reported to the Fire Marshal. I know there will be an amendment also to delete that provision and they talk about the extra paperwork and so forth. Let me tell you very frankly. When you have seen the situation that has occurred as I have seen, twice in my life time, the extra paperwork I believe is well justified. It also requires for inspection by the Public Service Commission of those warehouses at least once during each nine month period, at the present time that inspection is once annually. So with those, with that explanation, ladies and gentlemen, I would ask you to advance the bill and I would hope that I would have an opportunity later on to discuss and debate the various amendments which will be offered.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Before we get into the amendments Senator Rod Johnson, as cointroducer of the bill, would you care to address the bill?