

April 8, 1983

LB 393

CLERK: Senator Vickers would move to return LB 393 to Select File for specific amendment, the amendment being to strike the enacting clause.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, LB 393, for those of you that perhaps don't understand the issue, is the bill that would delete another portion from the brand area in the State of Nebraska. Now what that means is that in Nebraska we have a law that says that in a certain area in the state cattle that are branded or cattle that changed hands, I should say, from one owner to another have to be inspected by an employee of the Brand Commission which is a cash funded agency of the State of Nebraska. The cost of that inspection is borne by the cattle owner at a fee of so much per head. The reason for the inspection is to make certain that these cattle are, in fact, being sold by the owner of those cattle and that they are not including any cattle that may be strays or that he may have picked up from somebody else. Now there is a line drawn across the state, an arbitrary line, and I can't tell you the history of that line, but that line was drawn across there basically for the reason, as I understand it, to separate the so-called range area from the farming area. But those of you that are familiar with the State of Nebraska know that there really is no such magical line, that the farming area extends clear out into the western part of the state, and that we do have range areas right here in the eastern part of the state. We obviously have cattle feedlots in both areas of the state, and it has always seemed to me that if the brand law was a good law in certain areas of the state, it should be a good law in the rest of the areas of the state. I haven't brought in a bill to do that, however, to make it extend to the whole state. But what this bill does is take out of that brand area, remove the line a little further to the west, chip away at that line a little bit more, because of the fact that there are some people in this particular area who have decided over the years that this minimal cost of checking these cattle for their brands is more than they want to pay. Basically they have decided, I think, that they don't want to have to abide by this law. Now it seems to me that is bad policy for us to follow to say that, okay, a certain area, a certain geographic area does not want to follow what is the state law of the State of Nebraska, therefore, we are going to allow them to have an exemption and not follow that law. Now I mentioned on General File that the analogy we could use would be to say that if we allowed each county to determine whether or not they wanted to follow the 55 mile per hour speed limit we might have