

February 27, 1973

SENATOR WARNER: And could you give me an idea what a farmstead is? How do you define it?

SENATOR LEWIS: Well I think that we have talked about this and we have a definition I think, that's acceptable, and that is a farmstead would be a tract consisting of no more than twenty acres, of more than twenty acres and a thousand dollars in evaluation.

SENATOR WARNER: Is that, do you have an amendment to offer to that -

SENATOR LEWIS: I'll be happy to include that as an amendment to clarify to set everyone at ease, if that would be helpful.

SPEAKER: Alright, any further discussion about the committee amendments? All those in favor of the committee amendments say aye, those opposed no, the committee amendment is adopted. Now is there any further amendments on the Clerk's desk?

CLERK: None on the desk Mr. President.

SPEAKER: Now Senator Lewis what will you do with the bill?

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I think in order to maintain my credibility, and comply with the request, I will draft an amendment forthwith and send it to the desk which will include our definition of farmstead, which will be, it shall consist of more than twenty acres and a thousand dollars in valuation. If that would be in order with you, then I'll send an amendment up as soon as I finish speaking.

SPEAKER: I think that is entirely in order. Now do you want to explain the bill.

SENATOR LEWIS: Right. Mr. Chairman, the, as you know this bill was not originally introduced by me, but it was appeared before our committee. Our committee studied the bill, provided the legislative mechanism, in a free open hearing for people to discuss the merits and advised the committee of the problems with the bills, the short comings of the bills, we were waiting for advice, on perhaps there might be something that needed to be changed, nothing came. The committee voted this bill out 8-0. The controversy seems to have come, or the criticism seems to have come after the committee hearing, there seems to be some concern now, after the open legislative processes were available to those who might oppose the bill. It's for that reason I thought it was a valid bill and an acceptable bill and I certainly think that it does two things and I want you to hear this out. Number one, this bill says that any local area that provides for electrical inspections you don't need to be included. If you are in a city and you want to set up licensing procedures for your own people you may do that and you may provide for your own inspections, but we are saying in those areas of this state, where we license people and we do not perform inspections, we certainly have a gap in our safety procedures, as I said on this floor, yesterday, and showed you a list of at least five or six pages, not of private concerns but of public places where people congregate, where people live in large numbers we do not have a method of inspecting them. Someone has suggested to me well that can be done by somebody employed by the firm. Well let me say that the principle of having the contractor or the builder, the builder doing his own inspection, sometimes leads to problems. I would suggest to you that we have inspectors that are autonomous, we have inspectors that are not related to the contractor for a purpose, that's to check his work without considerations of