

March 8, 1974

getting up a point where there's a little complaint about even the 25¢ charge.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Do you feel then that this \$50,000 is needed in addition to the cash fund increase that would be created by this change?

SENATOR EPKE: I kind of think the \$50,000 is necessary. When you look at how their expenditures are increased and the Secretary of State, Allan Beermann, gives us a rough estimate here, how much their expenses have increased. I visited with members of the stock growers, and also, members of the Brand Committee. They say that their budget this year the way it's set, they have a deficit appropriation of about \$97,000. So they certainly can use the \$50,000. They also indicated they liked their independence and they might go along with the \$50,000 appropriation this year if ahead of it sometime they feel they can fund this in another manner. In the years ahead of us they might not use any general fund money at all.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, my questions are along the same line and I would like to ask Senator Epke if he could tell us how much this 25¢ raised?

PRESIDENT: Senator Epke, do you yield?

SENATOR EPKE: Yes, I didn't get the question though.

SENATOR JOHNSON: How much money does the 25¢ raise?... the 25¢ fee raise?

SENATOR EPKE: Well, of course, this varies from year to year depending on how many cattle are inspected. Now, for instance, this past year why the number is down considerably. In fact, they inspected around 250,000 the past year less than they did in previous years. Of course, this is due to the fact that maybe a lot of these cattle are in first hands and haven't turned from the original owner. So this varies from year to year and I don't have any exact figures on it. I would like to add one other thing. Another reason they think they could use the \$50,000 this coming year is that they're not quite sure how the...implementing the registered feed lot act will affect their income. It's on a kind of a trial-error-basis and they feel they need one year to see how exactly this does affect the revenue.

SENATOR JOHNSON: I'd like to ask one more question. You say that 35¢ would be a maximum and they don't think they would need all of that. If that's the case, I'm uncertain as to where the \$50,000 would be needed if you don't need all of the 35¢.

SENATOR EPKE: Well, of course, here again, the 25¢ is a... I would say a figure that's about as extreme as they should get. They want to be able to move up to the 35¢ if it becomes necessary. They're hopeful they don't have to because they feel like they're charging about the limit at 25¢. This runs into quite a little money when you think of some rancher having to pay 25¢ just to look at a calf or brand inspection. They're hopeful they don't have to go to