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LB 190

PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to take this opportunity to introduce some visitors from Senator Burrows' district, watching his bill being debated here, 15 senior students, 1 teacher and a parent from the Odell High School, Odell, Nebraska, Rich Wallenger. They're in the north balcony. Would they stand and be recognized? Welcome. Right up here. Welcome to your Legislature. Also, we have from various legislative districts in south central, 24 ladies from the WIFE organization, Women Involved in Farm Economics. They're here in the north balcony. Would they stand and be recognized? Welcome ladies. The Chair recognizes Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am an urban senator. Like Senator Chambers, I, too, know nothing about farming because I am not a farmer, but I certainly know that over the life of our country we have fought long and hard for individual ownership of land, because we believe in the kind of nurturing that an individual provides his land. We believe in the kind of care that an individual gives his land, and we have always resisted, as best we can, absentee ownership of anything, because one of the things we have learned in this country is that investors who are not affected in the end by the kinds of environmental decisions being made by their companies, or by the kinds of land utilization decisions being made by their companies, will allow those decisions to be made so the profits are maximized regardless of the ultimate effect on the land, and the air, and the area around them. Now it seems to me that Senator Burrows' bill, which is basically intended to make sure that those persons who own the land live on the land is a very healthy measure for our state. His bill may not be the best bill. His bill may not be ideally drafted, but I think this state and its citizenry are entitled to have this issue fully aired and developed before the body, and I think in the end we need to pass legislation of this kind. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I'd just like to make one little statement. It seems so simple to have farmers farming a land. This is ideal. It's ideal to have the farmer farm the land, not to have somebody in the city own the land, not somebody in a foreign country own the land, and somebody else farm it, but let's carry it one step further. In this country we do what we want to. If you are a farmer and want to go into the stock market, you do it. If you want to buy debentures, you do it. If you want to buy property in some city to rent out, you do it. People are free to do what they want to do. If a farmer wants to be incorporated,