

March 26, 1979

LB 492

we sure support the concept but we don't want to be left out. There were no opponents and according to the records I have, none of the farm organizations as such, came in. Now remember the original bill did deal with the large trucks so possibly it could be said that they did not have notice of this, the amendment or the amended concept, and that is why they may not have come in, but that is just speculation on my part.

SENATOR BURROWS: Thank you. Members of the body, I think you ought to take a real look at this committee amendment. It is opening up an area of 18% money on all the farm equipment or the large farm equipment across the state, tractors, and to my knowledge the equipment dealers have every good reason to find that money, International Harvester, John Deere and so forth, Massey Ferguson, to find that money for lenders at the present interest rates. Are you really going to do a favor when you allow them to raise those interest rates to 18% by adopting this committee amendment? In agriculture we are finding a net return on total investment running in the last couple years, 3 and 4% on the total investment picture between the current market value of land, farm equipment and everything incurred and I ask you how you are doing the massive borrowers a service by allowing them to raise these interest rates to 18% on this farm equipment. The amendment was not in the bill that was circulated. The farm organizations and rural people of this state had no way of coming up with a protest on the amendment and knowing that it was coming forth for the committee hearing. So I really heartily urge you to vote down this committee amendment that broadens the bill beyond what the original intent was to take care of these trailer-trucks and tractors, the tractors referring at that point to tractors pulling the large trailer-trucks. Now it has expanded into the farm equipment and I certainly urge we vote down the committee amendment and leave the present usury rates in line, at least on the farm equipment. I do not like the idea of raising interest rates to 18% on the commercial trucks either but I find them in a position to price on their cost and we are talking about what, 50% cost increase here, when the president has been urging keeping wages and price guidelines down to 7% but interest we can jump with 25 and 50% increases and forget all about the guidelines on the other side. Certainly the trucking industry in agriculture needs more than 7% if they pay this kind of an increase on their money that they are borrowing. Thank you.