

As you know, our meat merchandizing plants in these United States meet a very high quality of standard and in fact many foreign plants do not so we felt the American consumer had a right to be protected from this kind of product based upon the fact that the source of origin of the finished product might not have met the standards of American production. I move the adoption of the amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is on the committee amendments to LB 399. The Chair recognizes first of all speaking to the amendments as explained by Senator Schmit, Senator Simon, you have the floor, and then Senator Kahle.

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I am going to have some questions for Senator Schmit. Several people have come to me, I guess being a resident expert on meat, Senator Schmit, and asked how that is going to affect poor little ole Simon Meats, which I do have some interest in, but since the amendments now are the bill, Senator Schmit, first of all, you mentioned retail. Is this bill dealing on the...Senator Schmit, does this bill deal now on the wholesale, when the meat first comes into the country, would it be on any level, wholesale level or strictly retail level?

SENATOR SCHMIT: As the amendment reads now, Senator Simon, it is retail level identification.

SENATOR SIMON: Okay, the next question then that I have, and it is one that Senator Kahle and I had discussed, you take, for example, an item, any type of stuffed sausage product, talking about hot dogs or regular Polish sausage or something of this nature, salami, bologna, et cetera, anything that has got a casing, even at a retail level quite honestly if they had imported meats, the type of imported meats they might put in that might be far superior to the type of stuff which you know which they do put in sausage like beef lips and so on. If we knew what they put in it, we probably wouldn't even eat it. This would pertain then to those items as well, is that correct? I guess what I am asking is how can you determine on something like that, on minced ham, things of this nature, where the origin and even the ingredients at best is questionable?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Very frankly, Senator Simon, there is an honest disagreement of opinion as to whether or not this type of legislation is, you know, desirable. I have had comments from certain manufacturers of chili, for example,