

January 11, 1980

LB 399

state than anything else and I believe it will cut down on the use of local meat rather than increase it. The federal inspection still does take place. I want to bring out one thing. You talked about, I believe Senator Hefner mentioned that there would be one inspector and he mentioned that he would be a very busy man trying to inspect all of the meat processing plants. That is not all of it. I think if you will read the bill carefully you will find out that he would also have to inspect every retail outlet in the State of Nebraska because not all meat sold in Nebraska is processed in Nebraska, and if you think that wouldn't be a job, I don't see how the Department of Agriculture could even make a semblance of the enforcement of this law. And somebody else mentioned that what we hear back home is, for goodness sake, don't pass any more laws that harass us and cause us to fill out forms and to cause us more problem than necessary. It is silly. I think the best way to do is pull it off, and if there is some agitation for some sort of legislation, I think it should come from the bottom again because this part of the bill has not had a public hearing and I just do not feel that we are doing the right thing for either the consumer or the producer if we push this thing through. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members of the body, we put in a long distance call to the Secretary of Agriculture out of Michigan and they said we have had it two years, we don't have any problem and no complaints and I am sure that some of these statements that you have just heard are plum misunderstood, and as I have said, if you will just give us one more chance, we sure as the world will get you a more clear and precise points so we know where we are at. We are not hurting anybody the way it is. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. President. I would most certainly like to support Senator Kahle in this kill motion. I want to tell you again, ask yourself only one question. We are right now exporting millions of dollars worth of beef liver, pork liver, kidney, tongue and we are making a lot of money of it that comes back into this state. Would you like those countries to come up with the same bill that was proposed here by Senator Merz? It is not the meat ax, it is the boomerang. It is going to hurt this state. It is going to hurt every cattle feeder and

5846