

March 5, 1980

LB 605

lawyers do but I think we are picking this bill all to pieces and not really getting done what we started out to do.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I would like to ask a question of the introducer of this bill, how he is going to stop this motorcycle gang without stopping the American Ag Movement or the National Farmers Organization or the Farmers Union from demonstrating or the Farm Bureau if they want to have a demonstration around the Capitol, how its effects are going to be any different on the farm movements when they go to make demonstrations?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Are you asking your question of Senator Haberman or Senator Johnson?

SENATOR BURROWS: Yes, I am asking the question how it would treat them differently than it would the motorcycle gangs.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are speaking to the Johnson amendment, so I assume you are asking the question of Senator Johnson.

SENATOR BURROWS: Okay, I will ask it of Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Well, Senator Burrows, I am certainly not an expert on demonstrations, either peaceful or nonpeaceful. Senator DeCamp tells me that he is an expert on demonstrations, but I can say this is one of the real problems with the bill. Our Constitution, you know, guarantees the right of peaceful assembly, not just the federal Constitution but the state Constitution as well, and that is why we are trying to write a delicate...draw a delicate line here to distinguish the lawful from the unlawful, and Senator Burrows, your question is an excellent question because it may well be that in our attempt to get at the motorcyclists we also get at the American Agricultural Movement. We get at other very viable demonstrations.

SENATOR BURROWS: Thank you. I think it is quite a question whether we amend this because I think the issue that should be before us is indefinite postponement of the bill. If we make it slightly more palatable, I am not sure whether we are helping the issue or not. The bill as is, and at least without the Johnson amendment, makes an American Ag Movement demonstration, if one person in that group or two get into a little skirmish, the rest of the people are