

May 29, 1981

LB 322

the vouchers issued by the Wheat Board. Now we changed the Wheat Commission, or the Wheat Division of the Department of Agriculture to a board, made them an independent agency. At the same time we recognized that the autonomy of the board allows that board to enter into contracts without the approval of the Director of Agriculture. They may enter into contracts, for example, for research. They may enter into contracts to promote the foreign sales of wheat. And there is nothing that the Director of Agriculture can do to stop that. The requirement that the Director of Agriculture sign those vouchers is merely a rubber stamp action. The Director has no authority to negate those contracts. He must sign them. So we are asking for a ridiculous action on the part of the Director of Agriculture. The Director does not have to sign or approve action by the Board and he cannot negate it. He just simply rubber stamps it. Now the present Governor seems to feel that that useless action is necessary. I think there is enough useless action in government without requiring additional useless action. Therefore, I ask that the Governor's veto be overridden.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, for the very purpose that Senator Schmit has indicated of avoiding useless action, I would suggest that the Governor's veto be upheld. Let me remind you that 322 is a bill that requires...that requires on a monthly basis that the Department of Agriculture send out reports to the two hundred and some newspapers in this state whether they want them or not. Now if that isn't useless action, I don't know what is. So although I don't have the same problem with the bill that the Governor has, I hope you will uphold his veto because this is the bill that sets the bad precedent of requiring state agencies to send out information to newspapers even when they don't want or request the information. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the motion to override the same argument that I would have made or did make rather the other day on LB 487, where the funding was changed, and I, personally, would believe that it is desirable that the Director of the Department of Agriculture does have a responsibility for supervision to approve those warrants as they are presented by the