

April 1, 1982

LB 966

SENATOR LAMB: The next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit would now move to amend the bill and the Schmit amendment is on page 1497 of the Journal.

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, could the Clerk read the amendment, please? I do not have a copy here. I believe I can explain it but I don't have a copy of the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit's amendment would read as follows: (Read Schmit amendment as found on page 1497 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thanks a lot. What we do here, Mr. President, we strike I believe the three cents per head that is charged on the sale of livestock, all livestock that is sold in the State of Nebraska to go to the Bureau of Animal Industry. Now only yesterday we adopted a twenty-five cents per head promotional item for the beef industry. I think there are letters in some of your files from the South Omaha livestock market and from other persons who are opposed to this. I do not believe it is fair and I believe it is justified. The livestock industry pays taxes like everyone else and the operation of the Bureau of Animal Industry ought to be a tax supported industry for all the people. One could argue very well I suppose that if we are going to have this kind of a tax it ought to be paid by the consumer because the Bureau of Animal Industry operates also for the benefit of the consumer. A healthful livestock industry and a healthy animal that moves into commerce is as much for the benefit of the consumer certainly as it is for the producer. So I ask you to adopt the amendment. I do not, cannot imagine the committee being completely serious about it but certainly the livestock industry is serious. Senator Kremer was on the amendment with me. He is not here today and so I would ask that you adopt my amendment. Senator Labeledz may want to comment on it. I believe she had a letter from Mr. Jim Smith of the Livestock Auction Market of Omaha.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I'm sorry, Senator Schmit, I didn't even know this was up. I was talking to Senator Newell. Yes, I do have a letter from the Omaha Livestock Market, Inc. and some of the things that they said that based on the 1981