

soil. We're throwing it away because the other part of the statistical thing on the cattle being up 20 percent is this, Nebraska Livestock and Reporting Service announced that in 1984 the total number of cattle and calves marketed in Nebraska had declined 280,000 from 1982, 280,000. We were down 12 percent in total cattle and calves marketed, the nationwide average was down 3 percent simply because a lot...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time.

SENATOR RUPP: ...of big ranches are sitting empty because of Initiative 300. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Nelson, then Senator Hefner.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Johnson's kill motion on this. I, too, agree that this is a very emotional issue and I hope that all of us listen very carefully. Not only is this an opportunity for the rural communities to be heard, but again we see the special interest groups working very hard. To address a few of the things of Senator Rupp, statewide, this is a statewide issue. This pertains to every one of our 93 counties. It is not just an interest of the large corporations or the bankers. In the first place, I will address the cattle on feed. It was said that we need the corporate feedlots to feed the cattle, the farmers can't get the job done. The only thing they have forgotten is the facts of the thing. Of course, I admit in western Nebraska we have ideal cattle feeding conditions and so on that in eastern Nebraska and Iowa are not the same. But doesn't Kansas and Oklahoma and Texas, Texas with no corporate law, they have the same thing. They have the ideal weather, the drainage and so on. The only way that some of these farmers are going to stay in business is to be able to feed this grain to their own livestock. I see nothing wrong with the farmers doing that and purchasing their goods in their local communities. I'll address that a little bit later. One of the main opponents that we have seen on this issue, which are interlocking corporations through their board of directors and so on, Peter Kiewit Company, or Peter Kiewit Foundation, owner of Pawnee Springs Ranch in Nebraska, directors and owners, directly associated with the Omaha World-Herald, they own 17 percent of it. FirstTier,