

know that it is detrimental to Nebraska? I say that we need to give it more time. How did we ever get Initiative 300 in our Constitution to start with? We got it in the Constitution because this Legislature wouldn't address the problem that we had seven or eight years ago. I want to give Senator Bill Burrows credit for that. He had a bill before us every year, but we refused to address the problem. This is why we have it in our Constitution now. If we repeal Initiative 300 in our Constitution, we are slapping our citizens of Nebraska in the face. Some of you have mentioned that it is hard on economic development. I don't think it's been that hard on economic development. We are going about it the same pace that we had before we had Initiative 300. Some of you have said that it is ruining our cattle feeding operations in Nebraska. Let me quote from an article that was in yesterday's, Sunday's edition of some of our Nebraska papers. Cattle on feed at a four-year low. The Agriculture Department says cattle feed lot inventory, nationwide, were at a four-year low January 1, 1986, with Nebraska, with Nebraska and Idaho the only exceptions among the 13 major beef producing states. As you read on further where it says that Iowa is down about 24 percent, they are at 76 percent of what they were last year, Kansas is at 93 percent, Nebraska at 101 percent. So I don't think that we can say that Initiative 300 is hard on our cattle feeding operations. I believe Senator Rupp mentioned that the reason Nebraska could be higher than this because we have ideal feeding conditions, we have ideal weather and the like. But I would say to you that Iowa has the water, Iowa has the feed, Iowa has the same climate as Nebraska or close to it. So I don't think that argument holds water. We had one operation in northeast Nebraska that was going to be shut down because of Initiative 300, but they got around it, they are still in operation. They are feeding 10 or 12 thousand cattle a year, or maybe even more than that and so they are operating. So Initiative 300 hasn't shut that operation down. Another article that I would like to call your attention to is we were talking, I think Senator DeCamp mentioned the governor candidates that were here this morning, or that weren't here. But it says no Nebraska candidates would ax Initiative 300. So I don't see a lot of overwhelming support to repeal Initiative 300. I feel that we certainly need to keep it,...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.