

Initiative 300, even the most enthusiastic proponents will concede that it could use help, it could use help here and there. I think justifiably they are afraid that anything we might propose to the voters is going to go beyond that. But I want to let them know that from my vantage point I won't be a party to that, but we nonetheless do have a responsibility to improve it if we can do that and to present such a proposal to the voters and I think we should keep this resolution alive for that purpose and only for that purpose. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, like Senator Nichol, I have not spoken to this issue and feel that possibly this is the time to do so. I am one of those individuals that last time voted to continue debate on the topic because I do feel that it is of maximum importance to the State of Nebraska. I can tell you that I wish this was strictly a debate per se and that I had been assigned to take either the pro or the con side, because with fervor I could have argued either side of this issue. And what that says to me is that there is no consensus. There is no consensus even within the rural economy, the agricultural economy. We talk about the percentage of votes that enacted this legislation on the ballot. All of those people voting for Initiative 300 were not necessarily agricultural people. Those were many urban people who thought they were doing the very best thing to help their friends in agriculture. Sometimes those urban people are accused of not being sympathetic to the agricultural problem. I don't believe that. I don't believe that at all. Look back at Amendment 4. I think they try to do the best to help us. They, too, are small business people who were coerced maybe, if you will, into fearing the big corporation. Those big corporations actually own less than 1 percent of the land out there. So the fear factor was very great. We are all fearful and the thing to fear is fear itself. The people who are supporting 300 strongly, they are fearful. Number one, they are fearful that we are going to change it. Number two, they are fearful of what could take its place. Most of them are fearful about what is going to happen to their livelihood as they perceive it. Most of all, we are fearful of change. Initiative 300 leaves the rural ag economy inflexible and any business man knows that if they cannot, or business woman, knows if they cannot change to