

March 25, 1975

you want to go on the shelves of the grocery store, you are going to have to open up a weiner or a salami or something and look at it and tell me which is our meat and which meat comes from Australia. Come into Campbell's Soup and tell me what meat in there, will you, that belongs to Argentina, Australia. Tell me. I will defy anybody in this room to tell me what kind of meat it is. I don't believe that we should allow all the imports we want to but if we want to export meat to certain countries, do you know what we have to do. We have to meet their specifications and they send a man here. Now if we want to send, in our Department, a man and have him inspect every one in Australia, fine and dandy, but we do OK that packing house, that meat meets our specifications and it is good so far as Australian beef is concerned. I don't eat it. You can't find an Australian steak on the market but you can find meat that goes into our lunch meat, and so forth, and so the best thing to do with this bill, if you want it and want to give \$30,000 to the Department of Agriculture and they get ways of getting money every year. I have been in the Ag Committee for four years and they come in with some kind of a bill to put money in their kitty rather than go and asking the Governor for money for their Department and that is all this is.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, first of all, I think Senator Keyes is supporting the bill and I hope he is, anyway. I know Senator Keyes is interested in the livestock industry in the state of Nebraska and he does have some insight with regard to this problem which some of the rest of us do not have and, again, admittedly we are not sure this problem is being resolved in the best possible manner with the bill that Senator Burrows has proposed but you have to start somewhere. The facts are that we have an industry here in Nebraska that produces a high quality product. The facts are, also, that we import the same kind of a product from foreign countries which does not have those specifications in regard to the processing of that same product which we import into this country. I am not sure that we should have adopted the amendment which the Committee placed on the bill which says that we cannot send someone overseas, but I will go this far. In order to get started, I'd like to pass the bill. If Mr. Kreuzscher comes to us and says, we need to send someone to this country to inspect the facilities. Fine. As Senator George has told me about the fact and it was alluded to in Senator Burrows testimony that the packing companies in this country who want to ship meat to foreign countries have to pay for a West German inspector to come to this country and reside in this area and observe their practices and procedures to be sure that the product is being handled in accordance with West Germany's specifications. I am not sure that we shouldn't be doing that but the facts are, and, again, I am going to come back here and I don't want to accuse anyone of being cheap but the facts are that we are afraid to take the steps that are necessary to protect our industry. I don't...I agree with Senator Keyes, there is no way to tell by looking at a roll of salami where the stuff came from but I suggest there are ways we can do it and I know that our department can assist us. I know that the United States Department of