

January 11, 1980

LB 399, 718

RECESS

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: (Microphone off) your presence. Clerk will record the vote. Does anybody have any bills they would like to present at this time?

CLERK: Quorum present, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Clerk has some business to read in.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 718, read title.

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are down to Special Order on LB 399. Do you want to read the bill, title?

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 399, read title. The bill was first read on January 17 of 1979. It was referred to the Agriculture and Environment Committee. The bill was advanced to General File by Senator Schmit's Agriculture and Environment Committee. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit for amendments to LB 399.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I move for the adoption of the amendments. The amendments, Mr. President, are the bill and this bill is an attempt by Senator Merz to provide for identification of meat products that are imported into the United States at the point of retail. The original bill presented some serious constitutional problems and this amendment here has been certified as constitutional in the State of Michigan. Insofar as our own situation is concerned, of course, we cannot guarantee that but I think it is the nearest we can come to the attempt we have made several times to try to identify the competition we receive from foreign products and you may or may not agree with the intent but in the past there have been charges that meat products from foreign nations have been dumped in the United States and many times the American consumer does not realize this and we felt that it might be to our benefit, to the industry's benefit and to the benefit of the American consumer to know that. There is another issue at point here and that is that many times meat products imported into this country are not processed in plants of the same standard of quality as our American food products.