

Senator Scofield, Senator Pirsch. Yes, call ins are authorized.

CLERK: Senator Moore voting yes. Senator Scofield voting yes. Senator Baack voting no. Senator Beyer voting yes. Senator Schmit voting yes. Senator Lynch voting yes.

PRESIDENT: Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 5 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate has ceased. Senator Schmit, would you like to close, please? Senator Vard Johnson, I guess it's your motion, excuse me.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when I opened on this kill motion a half an hour ago, I spoke from a great deal of fatigue and weariness with this issue and I suppose in some respects that one can never be fatigued and wearied about an issue. You always have to be alert to it and ready for it and thinking about it, but I've been a member of this Legislature for nine years and there has not been one year that Initiative 300 has not been before us. Out of the nine years that I have been down here, every year we have had the issue before us and actually Senator Schmit has been down here 18 years and there has not been a year that he has been down here this has not been before us. The issue first started here in 1970 and it started when a bunch of farm people knocked on our door and said, can you please begin to restrict corporate ownership of farm and ranchland. And this Legislature, like old Pharaoh said, no, said, go down, Moses. No, we're not going to do it, so they came back in '71 and '72 and '73 and '74 and right on down the line until finally they got tired of Pharaoh saying no, and they took the law into their own hands as they are allowed to do. Now, Senator Labeledz has been telling me quite privately that the way they took the law into their own hands would put the lottery petition drive to total shame, but be that as it may, be that as it may, they circulated the petitions and they got the issue on the ballot and they went through a highly contested, high spirited, hotly contested campaign and they won the issue. The voters said, we don't want corporate ownership of farm and ranchland in Nebraska, we don't want it. Now the voters may be wrong. Maybe their decision does impede economic development. Maybe they misread the ballot. Maybe they did one of those foolish things like voting John DeCamp out of office, for example, or voting me back into office for example. Who knows? They did those things, but they