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February 1, 1999 LB 141, 437

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. You had said there was another bill that we had, how long ago, dealing with this subject?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: (LB) 141 had an amendment on it that concerned the levy constraints for agricultural societies, but we...that amendment wasn't adopted, at my request. The materials that are necessary to address their levy limitations are contained in this bill.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And about how long ago was that amendment?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Last week, if I recall correctly.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. So this is...in a sense, this is the second shoe dropping.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, the other amendment was withdrawn. We saw...we saw, frankly, better language to accomplish the objective and, without attempting to work the issue on that bill, brought it forward to you in the form of a comprehensive effort.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What I have to say is that these are very exciting times, brothers and sisters, and ever since that attempt last week I've been waiting to exhale until we got to the point where we are now, so (exhales loudly) I can breathe again. Senator Wickersham, of what value... I shouldn't phrase a question like that. What is it that an agricultural society does that is a positive good for the populace as a whole in the county where one of these outfits exists?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, they...they organize and conduct a county fair, and maybe other activities. I can't speak for what all of them do, but, for the most part, it's, I believe, organization and operation, conduct of a county fair.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And I'm going to ask the question in a different way. What would be lost if we got rid of all of these agricultural societies?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Oh, I think in...in Sioux County, let me say, and in Dawes County and Sheridan County and other places