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LB 730, 870

would like to comment a little bit on some of the remarks that Senator Wehrbein made. I, too, agree that we haven't reached the bottom of the pit. I think we still have...I think we still have an opportunity to resurrect some of our activities on local farms and ranches, and many of the economists are telling us that it's over with. They've already...it's already under the control of corporate America. I have met and visited with Bob Taylor, one of the guys that Senator Wehrbein was talking about that was quoted in this article. Bob Taylor is on...in the...he's an ag economist at Auburn University and he was present at the meeting I went to, I told you about earlier in the session about the meeting I went to in Alabama, extremely capable man and very sensitive and he understands the issues. And he is definitely on the side of the small farmer and small rancher. He's very much in favor of limiting the power of corporate America. And I just...I can't tell you how impressed I was in having visited with that man. And with that, I'd like to urge your support of the committee amendments and keep in mind at the same time the purpose of the bill, the intent of it, and I think that Senator Wehrbein has an excellent plan here. I think we really need to get with it and do the best we can to provide the information he is asking. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Discussion on the committee amendment, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I should like to go on record as supporting both the committee amendments and the underlying bill. Some of the conversations that we had earlier in the session, just a week or so ago, at the various stages of debate on LB 870 have some impact here but I think perhaps I should like to add a little bit of an old man's perspective to the issue. We have, in our office, been embarked on a quest. I think it's sort of a Don Quixote quest but, nonetheless, it's a quest to see how large the impact that Nebraska government places on the agriculture community, and as part of that quest I find that today I can stand here and tell you how we rank nationally on all classes of property except for agricultural land. Even USDA has ceased to care about agriculture in Nebraska. There are fewer, my friends, fewer than 200,000, fewer than 200,000 farms producing food in this country. That are those farms that have over