

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 9, 2000

LB 1348

carry forth the intent of the original bill by retaining language to provide the grant selection of grant recipients shall attempt to assure an equitable geographic representation to the "microloan" program benefits. Finally, the dollar amounts requested are lowered from the original bill. The amount requested for the Agricultural Opportunities Grant Program is lowered from \$5.5 million to \$1 million, and the additional funding to the "Microenterprise" Program is lowered from \$1 million to \$875,000. With that, I'll close on the committee amendments and urge your support for the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Discussion on the committee amendment? Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I was just given a handout and I'd like to ask Senator Wehrbein a question or two, if he is the one who handed this out, had this distributed.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wehrbein, will you yield for a question?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Wehrbein, in the first paragraph it mentions a small farms cooperative and in the fourth sentence it says the premium the farmers have been told they can expect is significant, at least 30 percent per head. What does that term "premium" mean?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Well, in the context that it's there, I would say that it's getting a 30 percent premium above what they ordinarily would expect to sell their animal at if they went through a typical...more typical market.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, and if this were to pan out, as is envisioned in this paragraph, these farmers would realize a profit as a result of this activity. Is that true?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: That would be the intent, yes.