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March 20, 2003      LB 228A, 234, 234A, 238, 241, 243, 257, 273  
274, 608, 754

LB 228A, LB 234, LB 234A, LB 238, LB 241, LB 243, LB 257,  
LB 273, LB 274, Legislative Journal pages 1009-1011.)

Mr. President, I have nothing further pending to this component  
of the committee amendments.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. (Visitors introduced.)  
We'll go now back to the discussion of FA1206, which is the  
third component of the divided committee amendments to LB 608.  
Open for discussion, Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators  
Janssen, Brashear, Raikes, Bourne, Loudon, and Vrtiska. Senator  
Wehrbein, on discussion of FA1206, if you care to.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, we are on the next  
amendment. I just wanted to get into the record the importance  
of the last amendment and what message it sends to the  
value-added part of Nebraska agriculture, and remind the body  
that there is 47 million acres of farmland/ranch land in  
Nebraska, and half of that is rangeland. Half of that is  
dependent upon livestock, specifically cattle. And I just  
wanted to get the message across that if we're going to have  
value-added profitable agriculture in Nebraska hopefully some  
day that the livestock industry and the base, and we're working  
on LB 754, which is another bill that's going to be coming up,  
those things are critical. Just for your background information  
that you may not know, but there was a state of the art, state  
of the art multimillion dollar, and it escapes me exactly how  
many, I want to say 120 million, but I think it was probably  
more than that, packinghouse, brand new one, built in southeast  
Kansas, and within nine months it was broke, last November. Not  
all of the problem, but a part of the big problem, it was built  
in the wrong spot in the country. It was a couple of hundred  
miles transportation costs for livestock to be slaughtered at  
that point, and it was such a state of the art I couldn't even  
begin to describe what it was carried for. But there was  
millions of dollars lost by investors. Safeway had a huge  
investment in it, but it went broke, and part of it was that it  
was not in the right position. Nebraska cannot afford to lose  
the favorable spot that we have in this industry, particularly  
in this country, and anything that we can do to do that helps.  
Even this discussion, which I think is very good, and there is