

SENATOR DWORAK: Again, I'm not trying to belabor this, but it says that if the co-op decides to go into these kind of agreements then the patrons really don't have any choice because the co-ops can require of their members.

SENATOR CARSTEN: That may very well be true, Senator Dworak, but as you well know the structure of a co-op is made up of producing members. The members themselves make that decision. My experience in the co-ops, and it's been considerable, this has never happened.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you, Senator Carsten. I appreciate the fact that maybe it never happened, but it still seems to me that we're giving them that authority. I'd be very uncomfortable about doing that. Frankly, I am a member of a co-op and I'd hate to think that I would have to buy all farm supplies from or through this association and have somebody come to me and say this is dictated by statute. I am very disturbed over this.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. Senator Carsten is exactly right. If Senator Dworak will read the first part of subsection 4 he will see that he is already required, under that provision, to sell or market all or a specified part of the livestock or other products to or through the association. This language refers to the purchase of those products. This is a willing contract signed into an agreement by the co-op member. It's an agreement between the member and the association. It is the only way the co-op can function. It has to have the ability to function in this manner. It is one tool which the farmer can use in his ability to deal with larger businesses. It's a tool he can use or choose not to use. He does not need to use it. He can sell or agree to sell any part or all of his products. He doesn't have to do so. It's the same language that has been in the bill in reference to the selling of livestock and other products for many years. There is nothing strange about it. There is nothing sinister about it. I'm not sure what Senator Mills objection is. I know that if you will recall, last year we had a bill on this floor that had to do with taxing a co-op, I believe it was 382. The bill was opposed by some private elevator interests, but the bill was strictly a co-op bill. This language should have been included in the bill at that time, it was not, that is why the bill was introduced. Again there was no opposition to the bill. I would hope that we would not return the bill for any kind of an amendment which has been suggested by Senator Mills.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I've heard enough of General File debate. I move the previous question.

SPEAKER LUEDTKE: Do I see five hands? I see more than five hands. The question is shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 16 nays to cease debate.