

January 11, 1980

LB 399

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fitzgerald, do you wish the floor?

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Mr. Speaker and members, I would like to have a series of questions if somebody is knowledgeable about this bill. I have not heard anything coming out that is constructive yet. Now, Senator DeCamp, will you yield to a question? Will you yield to some questions, Senator DeCamp?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Oh, why not.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: John, once say I committed myself to buy some meat from Brazil down there, how does this meat get to the United States, is it federal inspected? Do you buy it in an individual, does the government buy it and how does it get to the State of Nebraska? Would you answer them series of questions?

SENATOR DeCAMP: I will try to the best of my knowledge. Meat coming from Brazil into the United States supposedly has some inspection. Now there is a lot of criticism that that inspection doesn't begin to rival or compare with the inspection of meat processed in the United States, and the simple argument that kind of proves that point is that or like X quantity of meat processed in foreign countries that comes into the United States you only have maybe one American inspector whereas for the same quantity of meat processed over here in the United States you have maybe I think maybe a hundred or one hundred and fifty times as many inspectors. So the standards, like it or not, are different but don't be confused between the original bill and this particular version of the bill. This doesn't sit and say this is foreign meat or anything like that. This comes in a completely different door. It sets up standards for what has to constitute different types of meat or sausage and then you have a sign saying this particular meat in this section meets these high Nebraska standards, and over in this other part, it just says this doesn't and you can guess whether it is from Illinois or from Argentina or whatever. I guess the theory is that if you really are concerned about good clean Nebraska beef or American beef, you are likely going to the part where it says this is the good stuff that meets our standards. I have gotten some additional information. It is in the courts still and there hasn't been a final decision in the latest court that this particular version is in with these particular new devices so that is it.

SENATOR FITZGERALD: Thank you, John. You never answered the