

January 11, 1980

LB 399

SENATOR HEFNER: I would say that it should go back to the Ag Committee and let the livestock producers testify on it and see how it affects them.

SENATOR MERZ: They were here. They okayed it. I called them and asked them and they says it was all right with them. They didn't put in no objection. I don't see how it could hurt them in any way, shape or form.

SENATOR HEFNER: Thank you, Senator Merz. I'd still have to oppose the bill and also in the fiscal note it says that they would need just one extra staff person and it looks to me like as much work as they would have to do with all our small packing plants in Nebraska that this fiscal note is a little short. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now some of you have not turned your lights off. Let me double-check. Senator Keyes, your light is still on. Do you want to turn your light off, please? Senator George, your light is still on. Do you wish to be recognized? Okay.

SENATOR GEORGE: Mr. President, I want to reiterate one more point and maybe I have to do it for the second time. If we do believe that the U. S. Department of Agriculture and their inspectors do not inspect foreign meat imports to the quality standards that we want in Nebraska, then we should write a bill which sets more stringent standards for Nebraska but we do not have a bill like that here on our desks. You have to realize that we are exporting right now millions of dollars worth of offals for sausage production in foreign countries. That includes pork livers, beef livers, kidney, tongue, all these ingredients that go into sausage and Nebraska receives millions of dollars worth of money from these export sales. I am asking you only one question. Do you want these foreign countries to come up with exactly the same bill as we have in front of us, and if they retaliate to our hidden customs barriers that I believe this bill is, then we are going to lose millions of dollars in offal and meat exports and that is why I am against this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wagner, your light is still on. Senator Vickers, would you tell Senator Wagner his light is still on? Thank you. Senator George, would you turn your light off please? Senator Merz, your light is still on. Okay.

SENATOR MERZ: Just a few things I think we should understand.