

March 7, 1980

LB 853

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, do you wish to speak to... not to the amendment, all right. Senator Venditte. Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members, I don't really want to get involved in this issue but I did a little calculation. I hope it is correct. Thirty-three hundred feet is about eight city blocks so in order to protect anyone from being too close you would have to have sixteen blocks with the rendering plant or the paunch manure plant in the center. You square that out and you have two hundred and fifty six square blocks of property that would not be used for anything really or not for residential use anyhow to have this paunch manure plant in the middle. We have been trying to figure out here how many acres are in a square block and we came up with something like two and a quarter, two and a half. Let's just say two. That is over five hundred acres of land it would take to build this paunch manure plant and at the price of land in the Omaha vicinity I would guess it would really curl your eyebrows so I am not going to speak pro or con. I just wanted to... I think most people lose a sense of distance when they talk about feet and blocks. They understand blocks a lot better than feet. So I just want you to know that it may well be prohibitive to have any kind of a situation like that within the parameters of Omaha. Maybe that is what you want. I don't know but that is about what we would have and I just wanted to bring this information to you. I hope it is somewhere near accurate.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this problem has been with us a number of times as has been indicated and I would just like to say that I personally sympathize very much with the concern of Senator Venditte and Senator Labeledz. I know also that the City of Omaha has tried very hard to do a good job in their problem of waste disposal. I know the Department of Environmental Control has worked diligently and I think they have improved the facility tremendously. I do want to say, however, that notwithstanding all of those efforts, there is a very serious problem there and I know that, as Senator Kahle has said, solid waste has to go somewhere. Sewage has to go somewhere but I guess the question of the people of Senator Venditte's district are asking is, why us and if so, who shall bear the economic loss. I think there is a very serious economic loss that is related to the location of these facilities adjacent to what has been