

March 7, 1980

LB 915

somewhat of a contradiction in our efforts here this morning, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, and that is the juncture where we are now and it puzzles me just a little bit and it bothers me just a little bit. We are making it easier today now with the passage of this bill for the farmer who owns a feedlot but we are not making it any more difficult for the people who run these plants in metropolitan cities. I don't think the game is being played fair here. I don't think that people in rural Nebraska are really listening, too, Senator Lamb, with the people who live near these plants that create the same kinds of obnoxious odors that feedlots might create. I think you know what I am trying to say. Yes, Senator Maresh, I will support your...

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman and then Senator Kahle.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow colleagues, the bill does one other thing. It also gives the Department of Environmental Control authority to regulate fuels that are stored, sold or used primarily at power plants. I also support the bill. I am glad the bill was introduced as it automatically makes a livestock feeder operation a nuisance and I think it should have to be proved that it is a nuisance first. So I will support the advancement of 915.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members, as Senator Venditte said, we have a balance that we have to try to keep and I have been on both sides of this issue of smelly feedlots. In our county we did see fit in our zoning to make sure they were at least six hundred and sixty feet away from someone's home but if we are going to outlaw the feeding of livestock in Nebraska which is what it would amount to if you wanted to get real serious, it amounts to about the same thing as shutting the sewer off in Omaha. You probably won't need the sewer because you won't have anything to eat so there will be no waste but I think we have a serious problem and I think that the Department of Environmental Control has tried to work with it. There is no way as somebody said, that you are going to get away from smell. Feedlots change even by the hour and especially by the time of the year as to what they smell like. There is one over south of the highway, south of the interstate over here that goes to, or the road that goes to Milford and there certainly is never any problem in telling which way or when the wind is in the south when we come into Lincoln and I can almost tell you whether it has been a rainy season or whether it has been a dry season and a few other things by smell. So I think it is necessary to protect