

March 31, 1980

LB 1004

SPEAKER MARVEL: In fairness to this Legislature, we have to do it that way so that you have a chance to override the vetoes if you so desire. I think that is for your benefit and as I indicate that will be just a few days before the special session starts.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we get to Senator Burrows now, the Chair would like to introduce some guests of Senator George, two 7th grade students from Zion Lutheran School in Bancroft with their teacher, Dean Plummer. They are up here I think in the East balcony. Would you stand up and be recognized. Welcome to your Legislature, welcome. We will now proceed then with the amendment to LB 1004 by Senator Burrows.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Burrows' amendment is on page 1579 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this amendment would limit the expenditure of the state sheriff funds to \$2,000 per rancher which would amount to eight thousand acres as a total limitation per individual or corporation. That is \$2,000 per individual or corporation limitation. Now I had staff try and find out who got how much of the money last year. We were unsuccessful. The Appropriations staff tried to get a printout as to where the money went, how much individuals received and we did not find out. I really think this amendment is essential to go ahead and expend the funds so that we have some idea there is going to be at least some width in the distribution of these funds across the state. I don't think it will stifle the program but it will put it in a position where the money we have gets scattered out across the sandhills in the State of Nebraska and that a few ranchers don't end up taking the bulk of the money. I think really it is rather inexcusable to be appropriating money and have it going into a fund where individuals may be getting a few hundred dollars or thousands and thousands of dollars and not know where it went last year. If we put this amendment on, at least next year they will have to keep track of it when they limit it to \$2,000 per individual or corporation. So I think we will force discipline on the thing and at least an accounting system in either the Department of Agriculture nationally or at state level where we know where the money is flowing. It is a simple limitation of \$2,000 per individual or corporation and I think it is fair. I think it will force some distribution and it will make an accountable system out of the grasshopper bill. Thank you.