

April 9, 1980

LB 889

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I support Senator Lamb's amendment. Some questions were asked of Senator Kremer a bit ago by Senator Keyes and even in the last ten years there has been a great change in the fertilizer business, I believe, and most fertilizer is put on in a blended form today, and after you take a soil test why the fertilizer dealer determines how much of each ingredient, basically nitrogen, phosphate and potash, but other trace elements, and then mixes the ingredients to the right diagnosis for your soil. And if one of those ingredients is not up to standard, you are in trouble, because it doesn't provide that safeguard that we are talking about. As I understand it, from what I have heard from fertilizer dealers and from people that I have talked to, is that the potash people are the ones that seem to be objecting to having their product registered in the state. And if their product is up to standard, I really don't know why they wouldn't want it registered, because the potash people and the people that make the nitrogen evidently aren't complaining. Their product comes in guaranteed a certain analysis. Senator Beutler was talking about what protection you would have if a carload of potash comes in to a fertilizer dealer and he has to leave it set on the track while he gets a diagnosis of that product to see if it has sixty or eighty percent or whatever it is supposed to have in it, he is going to go broke, because he cannot afford to do this. Once he gets it unloaded and it doesn't match up to what it's suppose to, what can he do with it? He could probably quit buying from that company, but he's going to sell it to some poor unsuspecting farmer in the meantime because he is not going to load it back up and ship it back. So I think that anybody that wants to ship in bulk fertilizer and that is what they are doing into the state and also the mixes that Senator Lamb talked about that may be sold as the fly-by-nighters, we certainly need that protection. So I urge you to support the Lamb amendment and help make the fertilizer industry responsible to all of us. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis. We are speaking to the Lamb amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: No, I wish to speak to the bill as a whole.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel. The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Okay, I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed no. Shall debate cease is the issue. Record.