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LB 9

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, did you wish to have the floor?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, they say in the storytellers and Vard Johnson remembers this, then the fun began. It has been a couple of years now, at least, since there have been all kinds of people expressing deep concern about the rape of the farmland, the takeover of the farmland by the big interests. There has been all kinds of concern about what is going to happen to the water table and what is going to happen to the Sandhills and what is going to happen to the cost of living when the big guys take over. Senator Dworak has... I apologize, Senator Dworak, we are not going to fight any more, so I don't want to get into this thing again, but I want to say this. Senator Dworak has been concerned and legitimately so about abuses of property by large development interests. Well, I want to tell you something. I spent most of the last four days, Senator DeCamp and myself, driving and flying and walking over the Sandhills. We had heard all of these various concerns that have been expressed about the Foxley development in the Sandhills and what it was going to do to that prime rangeland territory. We took a good look at it and I want to say this that the part that I have looked at looks pretty well from a development standpoint. They have got a good stand of corn, it has been handled well. I am concerned about some of the land they are going to develop but I imagine maybe Mr. Foxley might possibly know what he is doing. Now the point I want to make is this, the same people that have been concerned about Foxley and Swanson and other large developers are standing here and they are saying, you have got no business interfering with the free enterprise system. Well, Mr. Foxley is a wealthy man; Swansons are wealthy. There are a lot of wealthy people in the Sandhills, but the money that those people have is like a gnat on a bull's back when contrasted with the pension funds, and as Senator Maresh has said, there are trillions of dollars amounted to here and they can buy everything west of "O" Street or West of 10th Street from here to Colorado, if they want to and level it off and leave it lay. They don't need to raise a crop because they know that in 40 or 50 or a 100 years the land is going to be worth more money. Mr. Foxley is going to have to get a return on his land this year and next year and next year. The pension funds can wait for years and years and years and years. Now I have always been the one who has stood here and opposed intervention into the free enterprise system, and Senator Burrows and I have maintained a good friendship but I have usually opposed his bills that limited corporate ownership of farmland. But I want to