

May 4, 1981

LB 11

meeting this past year in Estes Park, Colorado. I guess all of us would like to spend some summer time in Estes Park, Colorado, but I'm not sure that there were many Nebraska reporters who could make that trip with them or I'm not sure that there were many other Nebraska wheat farmers that could know what was going on at their particular meetings. I'm sure that nothing improper or nothing wrong did occur at that meeting but it is wrong for a public body to meet outside the State of Nebraska whether it is more expensive or whether it is less expensive, whether it facilitates other business or not. I think that they should be chastised for that and I think that their policy in the future ought to be to meet somewhere whether it is in Sidney or Lincoln or elsewhere. I think that they should confine their activities to this state. There are many other things that raise questions about the operation of this commission in this committee. I personally plan to spend a great deal of time this summer in looking over their past expenditures carefully to see what we can find. There are a lot of rumors, most of which are perhaps unsubstantiated, but I think it is time we take a careful look at the operation of this body and I simply wanted to put them on notice that even though they are passing this bill and are receiving additional funds they are not going to be out from under the scrutiny of the Nebraska Legislature. I guess with that I will close and I will support LB 11 as amended but I do have some concerns about the operation of this entity. I think I would like to invite any member of the legislature to receive a copy of a letter that was directed to Mickey Stewart from one of the members of the Wheat Commission, from Dick Haas of Hemingford. Were I the Governor of the State of Nebraska I would be appalled to have two of my appointees, one of my appointees writing another one using that kind of language and making those kinds of threats and innuendos. I think the Governor has the responsibility to look into this and to resolve these disputes and these childish bickerings between two appointed officials, the Secretary of Agriculture of the State of Nebraska and a member of the Wheat Commission. He ought to call both of them into his office and find out what is going on because both of them are supposed to be working for the interest of the State of Nebraska. The kind of childish bickering that has occurred in the past has simply got to stop for the best interest of the wheat growers, the best interest of the people of the State of Nebraska. I'm personally appalled and if anyone would like a copy of that letter I would be more than happy to share it with you. But, it has got to stop and I think this Legislature ought to take an awful careful look at why these problems have developed and see what we can do in the future to straighten them out. Thank you.

4393