

May 4, 1981

LB 11

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows, do you wish to speak to the bill as a whole?

SENATOR BURROWS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I feel what we have done now, we have eliminated the rebate provision earlier, we have eliminated any referendum way and we have eliminated any practical way the farmers can control this program. We are taking a flat tax, setting it up on a group of people if they happen to do a good job that is fine, but with no basic controls by the farmers that pay the tax over the program itself. I oppose the bill as it exists and I think that it is totally unfair to lay a closed shop on people without even a chance of getting back at what is happening. So many of the measures depend upon a laissez faire pure economy where you wouldn't have on a trickle down theory that if we get a little more market that it is going to come back through the major grain companies and come back and benefit the farmer. This is not necessarily so. We are working at the far end of a market system that is controlled by a few giants. We are perpetuating this by going this route and now laying a direct tax on the farmer that he can't get out of. I oppose this additional tax and the only route that the farmer is really going to have is to talk to his state senators and if he can't change it that way maybe elect different people, because, there are too many questions as to the benefits for agriculture of this program. The organizations are not going to....we have taken the money away from the farmers, they can't get involved in the political system and as you have seen with the embargos the Department of Agriculture can take away with a stroke of a pen all of the benefits that can be achieved potentially by getting additional markets with an embargo. Now they can't get involved in this. So we have created a situation where this tax is going into a theoretically impossible dream as far as actually helping a farmer. I oppose the bill as it is now and I hope that others will do the same. I'm sure that it will pass but I think that you will hear more about it in the coming year. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman. We are speaking now to the. . . .

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, when this started out as a grain sorghum bill that was fine and I was going to support it, but now that they have slipped wheat in there and raised the wheat tax I'm going to oppose it. This isn't the time to be raising the wheat tax. You