

May 4, 1981

LB 11

talk to a wheat farmer and see what his costs are, see what the weather has been like, see what his crop is going to be like, see how much insurance costs have gone up. Talk to the average wheat farmer, talk to the farmer. See if he wants an increase in his tax. He will tell you no. I'm not going to comment on the job that the Commission is doing because I think they are doing a good job from the results I've seen them do, the meetings that I have had with them, but I don't think that they need this additional money. For this to come up on the floor and to put a wheat tax in on a grain sorghum tax I think is wrong and I ask you to vote against advancement of the bill. We mentioned this before that this wasn't even brought up in the public hearing. Nobody had a chance for any input on it, any of the wheat farmers. Some of the people in support of this bill have maybe ten, fifteen, twenty or thirty acres of wheat, doesn't mean anything to them. But you take a farmer that that is his sole income wheat, and he will have 800 acres of wheat every year or 1,200 acres of wheat every year the tax amounts to a lot of money. So I don't feel that this is the time or the place to raise the taxes on the wheat farmer and I ask you to vote no against LB 11. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit and then Senator Maresh.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LB 11. I think that you all recognize that I had some of the same concerns that were expressed earlier by their members. I know that Senator Cullan and Senator Haberman have some concerns as does Senator Burrows in regard to the and I think that Senator Cullan is probably right in regard to that meeting out of the state. I don't think that it was probably right but I'll tell you, I would like to tell you why it happened. Four members of the wheat committee also serve as members of the US Wheat Association, several of them serve as members of the tri-state transportation group. That group all met in Denver at the same time and the . . . a number of those members of course are closer to Denver and Estes Park than they are to Lincoln, Nebraska. It is incidental I guess but the Tri-state Transportation Committee did obtain a reduced freight rate from the Union Pacific on wheat and the meeting was covered by the Nebraska Farmer and covered in depth. They told me that they had saved about a thousand dollars by meeting in that manner and did not charge any mileage from Denver to Estes Park, the room rents were less at Estes Park than they were in Denver but I would probably have to concur with Senator Cullan I think that it is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska if those meetings are held in the state so people can participate to the greatest extent possible. I share

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