

May 4, 1981

LB 11

down 6¢ from Friday, down 6¢ from Friday as a little bit of rain we....scattered rain by the way, Senator Burrows said he didn't get any. We all know how volatile these markets are. Anything that we can do, anything that we can do as farmers, as citizens to enhance and improve those markets I believe is certainly to the benefit not only of farmers, but to the entire State of Nebraska. The entire State of Nebraska benefits.....good aggressive marketing programs to recognize that our livelihoods are tied together very intimately. I would hope that you would advance Senator Maresh's bill. He has worked long and hard at it, he has made many compromises and I think as Senator Cullan has pointed out he has done a yeoman's job of putting together a bill here which does a lot of good and hopefully will do something for sorghum growers and other people of the State of Nebraska. I would ask you to support the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I also want to support the bill. I have seen a little chart out on what the export market has done in the last thirty years and you will notice when the checkoff program was first started we only sold twenty seven million dollars overseas. Today we are selling two hundred and thirty-five million overseas. Now this is what the checkoff program has done for us. Not only in this area. I have increased my yield because of the research that is done because of the check-off program from 25 bushel to 45, 50, 60 bushel. I think that is a tremendous increase and it has helped me individually to increase the production on my own farm. Now I just sold some wheat and I got on the food market, Senator Schmit said the market has dropped, I got \$4.00 a bushel just the other day for some wheat that I sold that I could have got \$5.00 a bushel several years ago. But because I was greedy I held it and then the market went clear down to \$2.00 but now it went up to \$4.00. Now who is doing this? I don't think the government has ever helped us in our wheat program. We have to help ourselves and this is one way to do it by giving the money or giving some money to the commission to encourage new markets for us. It is high time that we as farmers are helping ourselves instead of asking the government to help us. I think that we can do it through a program of this nature. I urge you to support LB 11.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker, I call for the question.