

May 5, 1981

LB 184

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I have seen these kinds of debates before. It's getting very late in the day, it's been difficult, people sit back and say, you know, that train will fall off the track pretty soon, but I want to tell you something, this train is picking up momentum and it may go all the way to the Governor's office, and I am a little concerned. My good friend, Senator Wiitala, yearns for the good old days, the corner grocery store. I submit to Senator Wiitala that he ought to start one, or we ought to take all the grocery stores and put them into a certain size. They shall be no bigger than 50,000 square feet and only can have so many cash out registers. But I remind you that corner store which I was familiar with once did not have the kinds of produce that we now have in Hinky Dinkys and Safeways and others, and they are probably not as efficiently managed either. Senator Johnson talks about the good old days of conservation. I remind him of the sod busters. The sod busters came in and broke up virgin prairie land and put it into crop production and a part of our problem in the 1930s was not the best conservation practice, and for those of us today that blame bad conservation practice upon large corporations and agriculture, I think we are misleading the public. We can see all kinds of evidence of poor practice of conservation on that family farm of 160 acres or whatever size you want to call it. The only kind of conservation you have depends upon the sensitivity of the individual, his respect for the soil and for the water and for the trees, and those kinds of resources which are appropriate to us to preserve for our posterity. So today we use the big corporation as the straw man. Show me, show me those great conservation practices. They are not thorough throughout the state of this Nebraska, not at all. Now let's go to Senator Burrows. He is talking about heirs buying back. Oh, certainly, when you go to sell what is the capital gain going to be? Pretty tough. We all know a little bit about that. Now let's go to the Constitution, and I will quote you out of the State of Nebraska's Constitution right here. In case you are not familiar with it, it's Section 25, Rights of Property. It talks about discrimination, and I think we are getting into discrimination. It talks about the fact that a citizen may not only acquire property but he may sell it at as fair a price as he can obtain in the fair market, and to me, we are infringing upon that privilege. If I have that private property which I am entitled to under the Constitutional rights not only in this state but in the

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