

May 13, 1981

LB 529

if we are really serious about protecting the grain producers of this state, which is what I think Senator Kahle and Senator Sieck are attempting to do with LB 529, then it seems to me that it is certainly wrong to accept the Chronister motion to take the third party looking over the shoulder out of the bill. So I oppose the amendment and would hope the body would also.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, a lot of things have been said and I agree with most of them and I will repeat what I have to say and let you vote on the issue. For instance I think there has been a lot of hysteria over this accountability that we are talking about. I talked to a number of elevators operators, managers, from both coops and from the privately owned elevators. Many have raked me over the coals for introducing this amendment until I explain to them that probably...that in all probability with the new bonding requirement they are going to have to have this accountability anyhow and finding out later that most of them, and I say most of them, already are qualifying with an accounting that would certainly cover what we are trying to do and many, many are using a CPA. You talk about being related to the industry, and as Senator DeCamp mentioned Senator Chronister being involved with the grain industry, and I respect that information and that knowledge that people have that work in this field but I am a farmer. My family markets probably between \$400,000 and \$500,000 worth of grain each year and we are one really small farm by comparison in my neighborhood or at least we are certainly not above the average in number of acres and bushels that are handled. So it's big business, and while \$1000 to \$1500 or \$500, some of them told us they can get this compiled audit, sounds like a lot of money, it is a drop in the bucket in their cost of doing business. I think most of the misstatements that we have talked about on both sides of this issue have been corrected. We talk about being a burden on the small grain, the small dealers. If you will look at the record you will find out that the five elevators that have gone broke in Nebraska have been small elevators by comparison. These are the ones that we need to have the accountability on and they are the ones that are probably most trusted by those farmers that live next to them and are the least apt to be aware of a financial problem. I might say that Senator Sieck and myself and the Ag Committee that worked on this bill have had trouble in getting the industry together to work together. We, first, of course, had the Public Service Commission to deal with and we had the coop elevators