

May 13, 1981

LB 184

mind so it would make it easier to add to someone else's collection of acres. Whatever the reason, I do not believe 184 is the direction this state should go. The artificiality of injecting into the farmer or the rancher's area already has many laws entangling that individual's holdings. Do not add another one for additional problems when and if that land is chosen to be put on the market.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, let me provide you with one other piece of analogy. If we are going to start this in the agricultural sector, then let's not just define it to that. Let's put it in the real estate sector. We find in the area in which I live huge corporations coming in there buying up vast numbers of apartments, converting them into condominiums, doing a lot of things. To me, that, if you want to talk about the business enterprise, let's talk about it all, if we are so frightened by those kinds of business transactions because it is just as evident there as it is anyplace. In fact it is probably more evident there than it is in the agricultural sector. Again, I restate, simply because we observe Prudential buy a couple of ranches out in Platte and Lincoln County, I don't think that is reason for us to act based upon that condition, and I knew immediately when I read that in the paper that this would fan again the discussion of family farms but that is only one case. Now we can talk about other interests in this state, and I have heard those names used and I won't use them because they are domestic, companies in this state who went out and bought large numbers of acres of lands, and we once in awhile curse them, but the point is they are allowed to do it, and until we see evidence that this is becoming so flagrant, I do not believe we should act so hurriedly. I don't believe those two instances or several can convince me that it is so dangerous right now that we should immediately draw the line and say we are going to preserve the family farm because if any one of us, forty-nine of us in here, could put together a corporation, we may be all agriculturally interested or directly related to it, and I believe we would be prohibited from going out here and buying large amounts of farmland even though our motives may be very noble, that we might want to be stewards of the land, we might want to put in all the conservation practices and do all those things besides just trying to get a tax writeoff, therefore, one more time I urge you not to support LB 184.

PRESIDENT: We are now ready for closing by Senator Burrows. Before we do, Senator Burrows, I would just like to introduce