

nave a good faith effort to try and deal with the public interest and my concern is that it is not really fair for us to once again get involved in this issue and not remember the fact that we got chastized all of last summer and fall for something that we weren't responsible for and I think that the Ag Department did try and do what was right. Now in further retrospect, after that initial reaction, in reviewing what the Ag Department did, it seems like it was a fair proposal. I realize that when you increase fees at any point everybody objects. Senator Warner knows that with his fee increase bill. Everybody doesn't like to pay more fees but if it serves a purpose and if it covers the cost of the inspections and it protects the public from unsafe food, and is that unfair? And I wonder if it is. I think what we are trying to accomplish in this bill is that we raise fees on people for food inspections to cover basic costs of providing those inspections. The public is then protected through these inspections that the food that they are eating is safe. Should we not protect the public at the state fairs and the county fairs and the food that they have on a temporary basis at these, should we not ask those people that provide the food at the fairs to pay an adequate amount of money to cover the cost of those inspections would then protect the public. I think policywise it makes sense to keep the bill as it was passed last year. I understand the concerns and understand the heat that you are all feeling from your county fairs and from your local people. Nevertheless, if you will really review the situation and not just react to the pressures we had last summer....

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR WESLEY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I think you will have to agree with me that the basic premise of the policy is a good one and that the concepts involved with the bill were a good one and that we were right to pass the bill last year and it was wrong for the Governor to get on our backs for the legislation and for the fall out that he received. I think there should have been a standing up and saying this is the right thing to do and we worked on this several years before it was even introduced and several more years in developing the legislation before it passed and it seems to me that it is a ~~main principle~~ policy for the State of Nebraska. I still believe that and I would ask you to carefully consider this amendment before you vote for it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wagner, then Senator Schmit to close.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, members, my portion of this bill is actually, it is a bill I had, 897, and 897 is a bill that