

April 1, 1982

LB 966

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the amendment for a number of reasons and I would think Senator Schmit and Senator Labeledz ought to withdraw the amendment even. I have stood on this floor and many of you have voted for increases in fees for testing of babies. Yesterday we voted to reduce medical costs, reimbursement for the poor. Today all we are asking you to do is for the livestock industry that yesterday...which I am a part of, which yesterday was willing to spend a dollar a head on lobbying and other things, and now we say for 3 cents a head to pay half of the cost for the health protection of the livestock industry is a burden. It almost makes me ashamed to be a part of the livestock industry when they take that kind of a position. You know, I read this resolution, collection of per head fee on all livestock sold in Nebraska for purposes of funding livestock disease, control regulations, is inherently discriminatory against Nebraska livestock producers. My God, is it discriminatory to protect the health of your own property and pay half of the cost? It is assinine that they would even suggest it, and they go on to say this ought to be paid from sales income tax. How much sales tax do you pay on livestock? Not a penny. Oh, yes, we pay a little on some equipment we buy, feed wagons. Most years don't pay a lot of income tax either because it hasn't been very profitable. I cannot believe an industry that wants to spend a dollar a head for lobby and promotion are unwilling to pay 3 cents. To pay half of the cost, only half, in the first year we only projected \$76,000, and it is anticipated to raise \$450,000 on a full time. Currently, 82 percent of the cost comes from the general fund...\$794,704; 18 percent is from the federal fund, \$162,000; total cost, \$956,000. I noticed the letter from the President of the Omaha Livestock Market and I attempted to call him this morning but he was not available then and I will get back to him. But I noticed he said in his letter, we do recognize that replacement of some federal fund cuts are the responsibility of the local industry. However, we believe that since there have been cutbacks in federal level, maybe state review in state regulations should be a priority matter. Well, in November and December we made a whole pot full of regulation review, and we are adjusting a whole pot full of fees, at least, make them partially self-reimbursement on those who benefit. We generally took the position where health care is involved and there is health care for the public in the testing program, that half of the cost was not unreasonable for the taxpayers to bear, but it was equally reasonable that a half of the cost was paid by the livestock industry. Now if there

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