

I've had people from my own area of the state, which is not a rural area, suggest that some of the fees that Senator Warner is suggesting that should be raised, should not be raised and I have been requested on a couple of occasions to, in fact, reduce those or offer amendments to reduce those fees and I've resisted because of the financial situation the state is in. I've resisted because I see a bill going across this Legislature that is wholesale, making some wholesale changes in adjustment in those fees and because of that, because of the needs this year, I stand and oppose this and I would urge the body consider twice before they offer more amendments or to make other kinds of adjustments for a special interest group in regards to the raising of fees in LB 966.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Vickers, are you...?

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, I just thought I should probably rise to let Senator Warner know that he is not the only person that raises livestock in this state that perhaps feels the way he does. You know I don't smoke either so putting a tax on cigarettes is probably not such a bad idea. You know the most fair tax is when you let somebody else pay and I suppose that perhaps I should follow that philosophy all the way through and try to remove this three cents too but yesterday I supported a bill to impose a twenty-five cents a head fee or up to a dollar. I was thinking of the time that even though things are tough out there in the hills, if it gets to the place where twenty-five cents or one dollar makes the difference between staying there or not, why I thought I could justify the support of that twenty-five cents because I didn't think that twenty-five cents or one dollar would make that much difference and I can use that same argument on this three cents a head fee. I don't believe three cents a head is going to break me but I would suggest that perhaps the reason this letter came around is the way the bill is drafted it says that such fee shall be paid by the holder of the auction market license. Now we all know that auction markets are like any of the other businessmen in this state that are so-called middlemen. They are not going to pay that three cents themselves out of their own pocket. Eventually it is going to come off of the livestock producer that sells the livestock to the livestock market. But perhaps that is the reason they are objecting is because they have to come up with the money up front supposedly and they are the ones who are going to be held responsible with the penalty and so forth if they don't remit it in time. Now I don't have an awful lot of problem personally with this three cent a head fee. I think that the job of administering disease control laws and rules and regulations to go along with