

should keep the penalty in line with what the value of the livestock may be. And I think that once we open that door as in many other things we're going in the wrong direction. And I do support Senator Beutler.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Is there anyone else who wishes to be recognized on this motion? Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Madam President and members of the body, I guess that I would like to ask Senator Beutler a question.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Beutler, as I understand it you're objecting to the...putting in law a felony where previously it was only a misdemeanor, is that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'm not sure if that catches the point. I'm for leaving the law the way it is. I guess what you're saying is true, if you're saying that a little pig, for example, that when it's born is...how much is a pig worth when it's born, Senator Dierks, I don't know.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, not a whole lot, but...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, if you...

SENATOR DIERKS: ...let's talk about a calf, they're worth about \$300.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, if a calf is worth \$300, then under the current law it would be a Class I misdemeanor. So, if you're proposing that it be a Class IV felony, the effect of what I'm saying is to have it remain a misdemeanor, but that's beside my point.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I guess the thing that I'm trying to get at is it appeared to me that when the legislation was drafted, and I wasn't involved with it, but it appeared to me that what was trying to happen was they were trying to strengthen the cattle theft laws. There's some feeling out there, I believe, that cattle theft was looked on as somewhat of an insignificant sort of thing, people would get their hand slapped, maybe a little fine, but that was about it. And I think that the