

thought behind this legislation was to put some strength in those cattle theft laws to allow for people to serve a little time and maybe stop this business. Cows, today, are worth anywhere from \$1,000 to \$1,200, depending on the quality and what they have with them in the way of a calf. So you're talking about a pretty big ticket item. I know a man up in Antelope County called me about three weeks ago who had ten of these cows stolen from his corn stalks and he figured that he had lost over \$10,000 with that little transaction. And I guess that I happen to think that that could be a felony charge. I guess I'm having some difficulty with what you're trying to do, and I need to have somebody who was involved with the drafting of the law tell me what they were trying to do. Senator Bernard-Stevens, Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you be willing to answer a question?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Dierks, I'm sorry. My mind has been elsewhere. I just walked in. I was surprised Senator Beutler ran an amendment when a senator's bill isn't here, so to be honest with you I didn't hear the question and you need to repeat that.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I wasn't involved with the drafting of the legislation, but I think I understand the intent. I believe you had in mind, and you can tell me yes or no, but I believe the intent was, with that particular section that Senator Beutler would like to strike, that strikes the part that calls for a Class IV felony for these thefts. I think that probably your intent was to strengthen the legislation and provide for some impetus in stopping cattle thefts.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, that is correct. In fact, if Senator Beutler would have checked with me a little bit previously, he would know that we are going to have a couple of amendments that will clarify this even better we think. But that's correct, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Well, I guess at this point I'm not going to support that amendment of Senator Beutler's until someone can tell me some reason why I should. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Is there anyone else who wishes to speak to this motion? Senator Bernard-Stevens.