

where you may have items of relatively small value, but a course of conduct. LB 111 allows you to aggregate that course of conduct into a larger value and have a felony prosecution, which I think we all would consider to be desirable in these types of circumstances. So I'd urge you to return the bill to Select for amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I just want to say, Madam President, that certainly this solution would maintain the integrity of the Criminal Code. And I applaud Senator Pirsch for bringing this to our attention in the first place. I didn't realize there was not an aggregation provision in the theft statutes. And so this would appear to be a very happy solution to this particular problem, and it would allow, as Senator Wickersham explained, for the prosecutors and the judge in the court to make a judgment about whether a series of incidents, a series of thefts were all part of one scheme, and if they decide that it is then they will aggregate and they will add up the dollar amounts of each individual article that is stolen, and then apply that dollar amount to the penalty classifications. The result of that will be overall that there will be higher penalties applicable in situations where people come and take a calf from one field, and then a calf from another field, all as part of one scheme. So I would support the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Just briefly, I appreciate Senator Beutler's comments. Carol, I appreciate your comments. Actually, this amendment is a portion of a bill that came out of one of your bills, it came out of Judiciary, I believe yesterday. Senator Wickersham was working on the amendment, actually, as Senator Pirsch was speaking. I think there's a combination of people that were taking care of me this morning that were looking at the bill and trying to find a way to do what it is the cattle industry wanted to do, do what could be done to move the bill onward. And I appreciate my friends in the body who have worked to try to get this bill in a form that is suitable for final passage. I think this amendment does do so. It takes out the critical sections and also clarifies on the aggregate portion so that we have substantially