

Bernard-Stevens, will you answer?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Schmit, I am sorry, Senator Wickersham is not here, and I was talking with my legislative assistant and didn't hear the question.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Would you explain to me again the amendment which you have offered and why...your rationale behind it?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, sir. The first, actually, there are two parts to the amendment. The first part would be, and, actually, Senator Schmit, I have my light on and I will take a little bit more time. I don't want to take too much of your time, if I could have a couple of minutes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Sure, go ahead and take it all.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, the first part of the amendment would strike the Wickersham amendment, which was agreed to last week which, in all actuality, changed the entire theft code to include aggregation, as a major policy change on an amendment to Final Pleading. And that certainly wasn't my intent. I think Senator Wickersham offered the amendment in very, very good faith thinking that would solve the particular problem we had in the cattle thing. I simply and I think others did not realize the extent of it. This would delete that part of it, and would simply say that if the body is going to handle aggregation, it should handle it in the due process with LB 111, I believe, which is Senator Pirsch's bill, which has been reported out of committee, that is now on General File. The second part of the amendment simply states that, and the reason for the amendment, the cattle industry came to me and, basically, said we are having, in our view, the statutes make people, if they are going to steal cattle, it encouraged them to steal calves because the value is \$300, or thereabouts, which is under \$1,000, because...they will do that because it is a misdemeanor only.

SENATOR BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: And they wanted to try to eliminate that, the incentive for people to steal calves because it is only a misdemeanor by making that a Class IV felony. That was the rationale behind it, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. I agree