

section of the bill, I want the record to show that it in no way says that we, as a body, do not support the concept of aggregation because I am hoping the body will, in fact, do that. If we remove the Wickersham part of aggregation, which, by the way, Senator Pirsch did not offer, it was simply...it just, it just happened on a day...the last week, if we reduced that, take it off, what we are basically saying is that this is a major concept. This is a major change in the theft laws that probably should go through the process of General File amendment, debate, Select File amendment, debate, and then we get to it on Final Reading. And what we are saying by this is that it should not be done as an amendment on Final Reading. In fact, I was kind of surprised Senator Beutler supported it last week because I remember earlier in the session when I introduced an amendment that was on a...wanted to expand the area, I was somewhat chastised about the second week by saying we need to go through the process, we need to have all the discussions and all of the due process that a bill has on something substantial. This amendment, again, and I want to kind of clarify, I appreciate Lincoln's Senator Beutler's interest in the agricultural cattle industry in western Nebraska. I really think it is good. I appreciate his understanding where he says that we want to keep the statutes, we want to keep the intent of what we have done with the recodification. We want to keep all of that clean and simple and that is more important to him. And I understand that, from a legal viewpoint, I could probably support that, but when we get to human, real terms in rural Nebraska, one of the major industries that has kept us alive is the cattle industry. The cattle prices are good. Things have been very, very good, and Senator Beutler, what he doesn't talk about is the fact that the law the way it is now, the way the law is now, it says that anything under \$1,000 is going to be for the most part a misdemeanor. If I am going to steal cows, it makes sense to me, I am going to steal a calf because I know I am going to get a misdemeanor, because if I wait much longer than that, it will be a felony. So the law now encourages, in one of the major industries of the state, particularly in rural Nebraska, the law encourages theft of calves because it is a misdemeanor. What we are trying to say in this, in Nebraska, which is the leader of cattle feeders in the nation, we are even ahead of Texas at this point and growing, in one of the major rural agricultural industries, we are trying to say let's don't encourage calves to be stolen. Let's simply say that if we steal a calf, it is going to be a Class IV felony, period. Now Senator Lindsay mentioned the other day, and I agree with him, if I am a county