

is done by the plaintiff picking an appraiser and the defendant picking an appraiser and the two appraisers picking the third appraiser, and then they come up with the value. I wanted to ask Senator Bernard-Stevens a question, if he would please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Bernard-Stevens, would you respond, please?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yes, sir.

SENATOR DIERKS: As I understand it, your amendment now will keep the felony penalty but do away with the aggregation, is that right, this amendment you are talking about?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, it will do away with aggregation and change the penalty so that anything under 1,000 instead of being a misdemeanor will be a Class IV felony. Anything above that would be a Class III felony as the statutes exist.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, now without confusing the issue, what does the next amendment do?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, the next amendment was filed simply so the body would have the clear picture of what the options are available to it. If...my feeling was that the cattle industry deserved to have a vote up or down on this issue. It is important to them. If the Legislature says no, they do not wish to do this amendment, the other amendment that is filed as printed simply would take away aggregation and remove, in essence, Section 1 from LB 218, which, in essence, would say the theft statutes will remain as they are with no change, but the rest of the bill dealing with the Brand Commission, those changes that are needed would be done.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Dierks, I found your remarks interesting with regard to cattle thieves and how they were treated in the west in the old days. However, from some reading I did last summer I know that is not universally true because there was a fellow by the name of Doc Middleton whose advice was to travel fast, travel light and travel friendly, infamous horse thief. However, they all loved him because, you see, he stole