

this diamond that was very, very valuable when they bought it and take it back and try to resell it. Because if you try to sell a diamond, what you will find out is the value of that is minuscule compared to what it was bought for. And the reason is that when you go anywhere in the world, you can always find a diamond. There always seems to be diamonds around, and so we are certainly not talking about anything that is in short supply, we are talking about something in many cases that is going to be in excessive supply. In fact, there is a story about the Soviet Union that was going to dump many of its small diamonds on the market to take the De Beers Corporation out of South Africa out of business at some point because they wanted to lower the value so badly. And, in fact, those diamonds are on the market now. They did sell and they put them in friendship rings. They have all these little diamonds now in these friendship rings that people buy so they can get those off the market, so the value will still stay relatively high. But that is a topic for another time. This particular bill, I want to make sure the body is clear, the choices in front of the body, I don't want to mislead anyone. This amendment will take off the aggregation, number one, and will also make it a Class IV felony for stealing of cattle of value less than \$1,000. If this amendment is not agreed to, and I hope the body agrees to this amendment, but if the body does not, then the other amendment that will be pending will simply also take away the Wickersham aggregation amendment and will then strike Section 1 from the bill so the bill would be...these theft sections would not be changed. All right, so that everyone is clear of what the choices are. I would hope the body would support this first amendment. It is one thing for the body to consistently talk about not focusing out or not bringing out, and yet this body time and time again, for whether it is going to be a drug use or whether it is going to be ounces of illegal substances obtained, will increase the penalty to send a tough message. We have done that constantly. Senator Pirsch is a champion of doing this, of sending a clear message. Now we are talking about cattle, an industry that is vital to the State of Nebraska. We are, basically, saying to the members of the body, the people in the industry, the people that are out there in the Sandhills, the people who are working with the calving in the middle of the spring snows and what have you, they are saying that the encouragement now of the law is, that if you are going to steal cattle, you should steal young calves because it will be a misdemeanor, and that is what they do. That is what they do. What the cattle industry would like to say is any theft of