

January 15, 1992 LB 223

Senator Lamb's amendment. (Read Withem amendment as found on page 317 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yeah, try the word "appraised" I think.

CLERK: Appraised.

SENATOR WITHEM: That's supposed to be appraised value and I recognize the problems with the handwriting of my committee counsel. This is an amendment and I haven't had a chance to visit directly with Senator Lamb about but I hope he won't have a problem with it and it is to do what he said the bill does. He mentioned in his remarks that the bill says that they cannot sell this land for anything less than the appraised value. It doesn't say that and if we all tend to...we had the hearing on this several months ago and we tend to have our memories not 100 percent accurate but as I recall that language was not in the bill as introduced, that at the hearing we did have a discussion with Senator Lamb about whether we ought to have some sort of statement in here that the land needs to be, so if it is going to be sold then it ought to be sold at least appraised value and, again, as I recall the discussion, there was no problem with that. We were going to put it on as a committee amendment, but like so many committees as we get toward the end of the session, we don't want to add amendments to bills because of this silly rule our Speaker, excuse me, Speaker, this provision we have about bills that have amendments have less positive treatment on the floor than those that do, that come out clean so we didn't add that amendment. So that's what this does. The reason for it is quite simple. If we are talking about holding this land as an investment for the young people of our state to promote their education, it is important that we do it as such. And if we are going to adopt the policy of selling these lands, it is important that they be sold at a fair valuation. We envisioned in the committee the potential, I don't know how likely this would be, but the potential of a group of farmers in a given county making some sort of agreement between themselves to not bid very high on this land and have an auction on a piece of land that was say next to Senator Dierks' property and all of his neighbors agree that they wouldn't bid very high on that and allow Senator Dierks to purchase that land for far, far, far less than appraised value, and then the next time one of those would come up, Senator Dierks would agree not