

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See page 1254 of the Legislative Journal.) 22 ayes, 8 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The motion fails. I will raise the call. And I'll now recognize Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Hall and Dierks. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members, I appreciate the continued debate on this amendment. I just think it's important that at some point or other we understand what we are doing to an industry which has been loudly touted as Nebraska's finest. We are treating livestock with great disparity. Senator Hefner had a reasonable amendment, it ought to have been adopted, and we would have removed a substantial amount of confusion. For whatever reason it was determined that his amendment was not acceptable. I would suggest that at some point there will come a realization across the State of Nebraska that the City of Omaha, great as it is, the City of Lincoln, independent as it is, living off tax revenue from across the state, will still not prosper without the agricultural sector. I remember when Omaha was the world's largest livestock market, and we were proud of it. It was the major industry in Omaha, and no one was concerned about a little odor because it meant jobs, it meant independence, it meant wealth for the State of Nebraska. Today livestock is still important to this state, and those of us who have earned our living in the raising, and production, and feeding of livestock understand better, I think, than anyone else the very fine margins that exist, the almost finite margins that exist in the business, and how easy it is to put someone out of business by inequitable treatment, lack of uniformity. I told you once before that I had a conversation on only two occasions in my life with a man whom I learned to respect a great deal, Peter Kiewit. And Mr. Kiewit said, Schmit, I'm only going to tell you two things about the tax program in Nebraska, number one, it ought to be fair; and then number two, you ought to let it alone, let it be stable. You ought to treat everyone alike, and then you ought to let it alone because, he said, many of the businesses that we offer takes years to complete. And if the Legislature changes the rules of the game after we have bid, our margin may not be sufficient for us to be profitable, and we're not going to do business in this state. I think it tells us something about this Legislature that the Kiewit firm, which is one of the largest and most successful in the nation, does very little of their work in the State of Nebraska. Why? For the reason you see here, the total arrogance we display toward