

we used the rest of them for eggs, and the family lived off of them, and sold a few. Today chickens are produced in large houses, 40,000, 60,000, 80,000, 100,000, again, investments of hundreds of thousands of dollars. The poultry, for the most part, is not owned by the farmer. The farmer receives a fee per dozen of eggs or some other method of calculation for taking care of the poultry. In effect, the farmer has become someone's hired man. Nothing wrong with that. Many of us have done it one way or another. It is kind of interesting that one of the major benefits of 775, as explained to me by a local businessman out of Omaha, was that it provided off-farm jobs for members of the farming community. In other words, it gave the rural members of this state an opportunity to bring in a little money by working off the farm. They could subsidize the farming operation with their income from the 775 job. I guess that is supposed to be meritorious. The facts are that the farmer wouldn't have been doing that, would not have been moonlighting had he not been earning less money today for his labor than he was 30, 40 years ago. So the farmers in my area, in Butler and Polk Counties, particularly southern Colfax County, because of the local egg-breaking plant, Henningsen Foods, became involved in contract production of eggs and they invested large amounts of money in these facilities. Do you know that in adjoining states poultry is not taxed as personal property? A hundred thousand, million hens, a million broilers, large numbers of turkey poults and others are going to be taxed substantially. The fee paid the farmer for taking care of that poultry, for providing the facilities, for providing the equipment, and doing all of the work necessary for raising and producing the eggs or the broilers, is figured by fractions, calculated to the fractions of a cent. The farmer is satisfied. Most of my constituents continue to build new houses and try to increase their income because as automation comes along, they can do a better job and do it cheaper with less help, so they automatically, rather than say, well, this is satisfactory, I will expand my operation. But if we, and we will, charge personal tax on that poultry, it could, in effect, do the same thing to poultry that we have done to the swine industry. We could drive the poultry producers out of the State of Nebraska. One institution in David City, Five-Star Feeds, owned by Bud Wright, who, incidentally, expanded that facility substantially without any 775 help, purchases about 7,000 bushels of grain daily, which he processes and feeds to his poultry. If the poultry business moves out of the state, the market for that 7,000 bushels of grain daily moves out also. It is a lot of