

November 9, 1992 LB 1

can put some balance back into what we're doing, both in the short and the long term by exempting livestock, I think it's entirely appropriate for us to consider that and to do it. I would support Senator Elmer's amendment wholeheartedly.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Elmer's amendment and this would delete breeding livestock from the bill. I always did think that a 2 percent surcharge on breeding livestock was unfair because how do you define breeding livestock? Those people that raise their own, as I understand it, it doesn't affect those, whereas those that buy breeding livestock, well, it does. I have a number of young dairy farmers in my district and I have heard a lot from them because most of these dairy cows were purchased and so they're on the depreciation schedule. And these young dairy farmers are really struggling to stay in business. The milk price is a little better now but about a year ago it was very bad. It had dropped quite a little and they were really pressed to stay in business. And that's just...that's just one segment of the farming industry. We also have cow-calf operators and it really hits the young farmers hard because most of the older farmers have their livestock depreciated out, so it doesn't affect them as much as it does the young farmers. And we know that here in Nebraska that we're a state of older people and so we need encourage these young people to get involved in agriculture. So I just think that this amendment would be a very good improvement to LB 1. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORSEN: Thank you, Madam President. I see that Senator Wesely is not on the floor and I did not have...oh, there he is. Hi, Don, how are we doing this morning? The question that came to my mind, as I listened to Senator Wesely's reasoned entry into the debate, reasoned, not recent, Don, is that if not now, when? Last evening I spent about an hour on the phone, long distance, by the way, but it was a caller's nickel. A young farmer, he and his father had had some significant financial difficulties in the eighties, may well yet be in a court bankruptcy, they're still operating. His father suffered some serious health problems this past year. By some arrangement or the other, the son purchased the father's farm equipment. Now the father had, in the course of his 1991 income