

be grown in Nebraska, fed in Nebraska, and hopefully processed in Nebraska. The economic impact of those eight, nine hundred jobs will be in the neighborhood of \$30 million a year. Now, yes, I realize that there are problems and these workers are recruited outside the area, but there have been things in the past that have happened that I hope can be corrected. If the housing in Omaha is not proper, it's a part of the authority of Omaha through code enforcement to make sure that housing is brought up to standard. It doesn't make any difference if that is a meat packing plant or if it is an automobile plant. The housing should be brought up to standard and nobody should be subjected to live in that type of housing. So let's not confuse the housing issue with the meat packing plants and the meat packing industry. Yes, Iowa does have a law. Unfortunately, Iowa does not have the amount of cattle that Nebraska does. Now we could put all those plants in Iowa, if we wished, and then ship all the cattle over there, or we can ship them somewhere else, but it is part of the economy of Nebraska. Like I said, 50 percent of Nebraska's ag economy is beef. I want to protect that industry. I don't want to put any more restrictions on that industry if we don't have to. I would support Senator Matzke's revision of this bill, but I have problems with the entire bill because I think it is restrictions, we are going to see some economic impact to this state. I, frankly, don't see that it is necessary. I think we are going to see a correction of those activities as time goes on. The meat packing plant that is going to be built in Omaha, Nebraska, the meat packing plant that is being built today, is a lot...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR JENSEN: ...different than the plants that were built 20, 30 years ago. When I was a kid I used to ride with my dad in and bring cattle into Omaha, and saw the vibrant vitality of South Omaha with the meat packing plants that were there. Then those plants all left, and I think the meat packing industry declined and also I think we saw some even reduction in our economy. Beef is back in this state. We have packing plants that can handle it much better than they ever did before, in a cleaner, better fashion. And I just don't see any need for the entire bill and would ask my colleagues to support the idea that we need to keep beef as an essential part of our economy in this state. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Jensen. Senator Chambers.