

March 9, 1995

LB 718

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, yes, Senator Preister, this is a little bit different situation. The State Department of Agriculture already has jurisdiction for inspection, and the control of diseases in domestic livestock, cattle, hogs, poultry, sheep, even horses, and this would just extend that authority to the ratite birds and the cervine animals. And these animals are not under annual investigation or inspection, they just, if there's a need for some support for, for instance, for health problems why it's there. It won't require any extra help. There are only 14 herds, I believe, of elk and red deer in the State of Nebraska right now; I think it will increase, but there's no real added work for the Department of Agriculture. They have not asked for any extra help on this at all. No FTEs for it at all.

SENATOR PREISTER: So they won't be doing any annual inspections?

SENATOR DIERKS: No. They don't do an annual inspection on my cow herd and my cow herd will be treated the same way that these elk will be.

SENATOR PREISTER: Okay. And then could you give me an example or tell me what a ratite bird is?

SENATOR DIERKS: A ratite bird is like an emu, or a rhea, cassowary, ostrich, those are ratite birds.

SENATOR PREISTER: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR DIERKS: They are used for food animal production.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Preister, Any further discussion on the committee amendments? There is no further discussion. Senator Dierks, do you have closing? Closing has been waived. The question is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of committee amendments.