

SPEAKER WITHEM: The committee amendments are adopted. Senator Dierks, do you have an opening on the bill?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes, I will, Mr. Speaker and members of the body. Really the committee amendments become the bill. It stipulates exactly what we talked about earlier and provides for these producers, a very major new concept in Nebraska as far as alternative methods of feeding our country on lower, smaller parcels of ground, gives them the authority they need and the input they need and the inspection service they need for doing this and I would just urge your support of the legislation.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Dierks. For discussion on the bill, Senator Janssen and Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Mr. Speaker, members, I'd like to visit with you a little bit about the emus which are part of the ratite. I never could figure out why they called them ratites. Ratite to me meant a house or a barn that was rat-tight, but anyway this is what they are. (Laughter.) Well anyway, the meat that is in an emu is very, very low in fat. I had the opportunity to process some emus this winter and I understand that the oil and the fat that comes off of the emus and ostriches and so on is used in cosmetics. I believe I'm right on that, but we boned out a lot of the carcass of this emu and made them into a rolled roast. And I understand that, I haven't tasted it, but I understand it's similar to prime rib roast when you cook it the right way and I am sure that in the near future you're going to see an awfully lot of this type of meat prepared in restaurants and so on. It's going to be very expensive because I understand that a pair of these emus will cost up to 15 to \$20,000 and with no guarantee that they are compatible, the hens and the roosters, I guess you call them hens and roosters. Anyway, I just thought I would let you in on a little bit of what this meat is like and I'm sure in the future you're going to see a lot of it in the restaurants if you have enough money to pay for it. So with that maybe Senator Dierks can elaborate a little bit more on the emus and their compatibility.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Cudaback.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. Speaker, members, that's a pretty tough act to follow there, but I guess I'll say something here. I support this bill. We had a lot of people in talked about it and a lot of support. I guess anything big starts out small