

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...a component part of the critter. We know that you know that we know it is not feed. So now that is not being talked about. We go to border bleed and other things. It is like Senator Beutler had indicated. They are jumping around from point to point on this bill like if you dropped a drop of water on a red hot stove. It dances until it evaporates. That is what we are seeing now. Every time one of these arguments, which is fallacious, is run to earth, then another one springs up in its face like...in its place, like the phoenix. I am not going to support the bill. I am going to support Senator Beutler's amendment, though.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, you know, Nebraskans and Americans, in general, are lucky because we do really have a cheap food policy. Of our disposable income, only about 11 or 12 percent is...of our disposable income is spent on food. Well, you know, this low percentage is because of the abundance of food that we have in our country. The abundance is because of the quality of the product that we have. The quality is due to good management practices. And the good management practices include keeping the animals healthy, and that animal health depends upon proper feed and nutrition and the control of insects, which either bite the animal, burrow into it, or suck its blood. In Nebraska, we don't tax our food, and the sales tax is placed on the ultimate consumer. Well, farmers and ranchers aren't the ultimate consumers of all of this beef and pork and chicken, and now emus that are produced, but we have to pay the sales taxes on the animal's nutrition products, which we can't pass on. Insecticides are a very important part of animal health. And my opinion is that the insecticides, although they are obviously not a part of the finished product, and, in fact, there are mandatory withdrawal periods before this meat can be used for human consumption or the milk can be used for human consumption, they are necessary in the production of food. So I am opposed to this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, Senator Dierks, if I may, just exploring a little bit this question of border bleed, I know that, for some years past, the states of Kansas and Iowa have had a tax on pesticides, rather significant tax. The last year for which I had figures, Iowa