

page 259 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR WILL: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. In a nutshell, I obviously agree with Senator Beutler's...the first two portions of Senator Beutler's amendment and appreciate his work relative to that. I also agree that the county attorney should have the latitude to file or not file a suit based on his findings, and so I agree with his terminology changing "shall" to "may" or line 11 on page 4. I do, however, believe that the responsibility of this should stay with the Attorney General. I understand his concern relative to the workload of the Attorney General, and I guess I am demonstrating some concern relative to the workload of the county attorneys across the state also. So, with that, I would ask for the consideration of support on my amendment to Senator Beutler's amendment, 2724.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Maurstad. Senator Dierks, on the Maurstad amendment.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Senator Will, and members of the body. I have watched both the amendments carefully, Senator Beutler's and Senator Maurstad's, had the opportunity to go over Senator Beutler's amendment yesterday; and we have a little problem with it except that the section that Senator Maurstad would like to amend. We think that that's pretty well taken care of in section...in Article XII, Section 8 of the constitution. It says, the Secretary of State shall monitor corporate and syndicate agricultural land purchases, corporate and syndicate farming and ranching operations and notify the Attorney General of any possible violations. And the Attorney General, if he has reason to believe that there's a violation, he or she shall commence an action in district court to enjoin that purchase for operation or to force divestiture if that's necessary. I think that the...I think really that the constitution spells out pretty well how the enforcement takes place. I had told Senator Beutler yesterday I had some difficulties with laying this on the county attorneys because many times they're overburdened, and, in doing their own private practice as well as being county attorneys, like they do in rural Nebraska, that the corporate...the reporting that would be necessary or the investigation would just not take place. So I'm not...I think that I prefer the language that Senator