

corporate return or forward the form to them at a later date?

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, it would be...as long as the Secretary of State is sending out the occupational tax form and the Secretary of State does that about the first of the year, it would be much more practical to include it as a part of that than to have the Secretary of State send out a second form, because almost every corporation, especially every farm corporation, knows they're going to get that occupational tax form around the first of the year. They're accustomed to doing that and they're accustomed to filling them out. My opposition to the bill is just based on the fact that I think it's overkill, the fine is too great. The penalty should be the same as it is for failing to file an occupational tax and that's the dissolution of the corporation.

SENATOR ELMER: I agree with that wholeheartedly. Do you see that there would be any enhancement or any kind of change in the way that corporate farming is regulated or investigated or prosecuted in case of abridging the corporate farming statements in the constitution that is now done, given...with this form, would there be any practical advantage or would there be any change in the prosecution rates or anything that you can see?

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, it would give the Secretary of State at least a list of corporations that own farmland. Then the question is whether the Secretary of State takes the responsibility to find out who's in violation or whether the Secretary of State requires the corporations to produce the kind of information that this bill would require.

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay. Thank you, Senator Matzke. Thank you, Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Dierks, if I may, just to explore what's happened a little bit to date, under the present law the Secretary of State shall monitor corporate and syndicate agricultural land purchases and corporate and syndicate farming and ranching operations. To your knowledge, has the Secretary of State been following the constitutional requirement?