

January 5, 1996 LB 357

SENATOR DIERKS: To the best of my knowledge.

SENATOR BEUTLER: They have?

SENATOR DIERKS: As near as I know. I have no other knowledge.

SENATOR BEUTLER: What have they done to date, to your knowledge, I mean you say they have followed this, what have they done to monitor corporate and syndicate agricultural land purchases?

SENATOR DIERKS: I don't know what they've done, but I assume they're doing what they're supposed to do.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, that's what I'm trying to figure out. What is it they're supposed to do? They're supposed to monitor. Are you aware the Secretary of State has ever referred a possible violation to the Attorney General as he's required to do as a result of any monitoring they've done?

SENATOR DIERKS: If that has happened, I don't know about it, but many things happen that I don't know about.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, if we don't know whether the present law is working, why are we passing a new law?

SENATOR DIERKS: Because I think there have been some requests from citizens of the state for Attorney General's Opinions as to corporate farming operations that have not gone the way that those citizens thought they should. I don't think it's based on anything the Secretary of State has done or hasn't done.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, if they're unhappy with an Attorney General Opinion on the matter, what makes them think that the Attorney General would prosecute based on other than his opinion of the situation? I mean how does this improve the Attorney General's attitude towards the whole situation?

SENATOR DIERKS: It tightens the rules by people reporting these facts that otherwise aren't reported and makes those facts available to the Attorney General and the Secretary of State for that matter.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so it's believed that the presentation