

February 8, 1996 LB 966, 974

Senator Schmitt, to close. Closing is waived. The question before the body is the advancement of LB 974. All those in favor vote aye; all those opposed vote nay. Please record.

ASSISTANT CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: LB 974 advances. LB 966.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Madam President, LB 966 was introduced by the Agriculture Committee. (Read title.) The bill was read for the first time on January 3rd of this year, referred to the Agriculture Committee, they report the bill to General File with no committee amendments.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Dierks to open on LB 966.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. LB 966 is a housekeeping bill which repeals four inactive provisions of law relating to the Department of Agriculture. The bill adds no new provisions of law. The four areas reported out are as follows--Section 2-2401 through 2-2409 establish procedures and responsibilities for the Department of Agriculture for weather modification licenses. These provisions were enacted in the last 1950s. The bill does not repeal sections which establish procedures for individuals who wish to establish weather modification districts, just the unused portion of that section. Section 2...or the second section is Section 2-4701 through 2-4748, that section establishes and defines the duties of the Agricultural Revitalization Authority. This agency was established during the farm crisis of the mid-1980s as an alternative source of financing for farmers and ranchers. It has never been activated, never been funded, or never been staffed. The third section are Sections 81-229 and 81-262, and they create and define the duties of the Chief of the Bureau of Dairies, Foods and Drugs. This position has been vacant for many years with no plans to reestablish it. The duties established are presently handled by other Department of Agriculture personnel. The last part that we remove is Section 81-1113.02, and that establishes the procedure for documenting the use of commodity check-off separately from the documentation of other funds. There's agreement among legislative and executive branch budget personnel that this