

February 21, 1996 LB 1205

evenly throughout the state. But I can't say it enough, and I can't say it strongly enough, I suppose I could raise my voice at this point, but I think it would be a terrible mistake to sell all the land. It is our heritage, it is something that we can always rely on, it is something that is always going to appreciate in value. I mean, talk about 100 years from now. I mean, who knows what the economy is going to be like, who knows what the stock market is going to be like? We know the land will always be there and it's going to be worth more in the future than it is now because we're going to have less of it. We're going to have more mouths to feed, the land will always be very important. Please, please don't do this, don't sell all the land. Let the plan come back, let's evaluate it and then decide how much of the land, if any, we're going to sell. Thank you.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Senator Schimek. Senator Bromm, on the committee amendments. Senator Wickersham, do you wish to address the committee amendments?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Hello. Thank you, Mr. President. I'll try to be brief. This simply goes to an issue that I've raised before, and that is whether it is a wise investment policy to have all of that real estate. Several members of the body have risen and said these are wonderful, long-term...this is a wonderful, long-term investment, we ought to have all this real estate in our portfolio, it's just exactly what we need. Well, we have other long-term investments for the state of Nebraska. Those long-term investments are held by the Investment Council and they are used to fund our pension plans, which certainly have long-term investment objectives. We currently have invested, by the Investment Council, roughly \$2.7 billion, \$2.7 billion invested on behalf of the retirement plans. Those investments necessarily have a long-term outlook, they necessarily maximize returns with a prudent rate...with a prudent rate of risk. They're for pension plans. They have to do that. None of that \$2.7 billion is invested directly in real estate, none of it. Not one dime of \$2.7 billion, for pension plans, is invested directly in real estate. Out of the dollars that are invested, there may be some that are invested in companies with interests in real estate, they own office buildings, et cetera. But there is perhaps only one company that we have any investment in whose primary focus is real estate. And of that company only a very few shares are held,