

February 21, 1996 LB 1205

this real estate and invest it. Years down the road that may not be considered wise at all. If the stock market collapses before this scheme...

SENATOR WILL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is put into effect that the committee amendment talks, and the committee amendment is probably better than the bill because it does not talk about immediate things taking place, if the stock market were to collapse, everybody would say, woo, we were saved, we still got the land at least. If you invest the money and it's gone, you've got nothing. And whoever bought that land does have the land, and that value is going to go up at some point. I want us to discuss who is likely to buy this land, what use they're likely to put it to, and how it can be used in a way to drive down the value of land held by other people in these areas where the land is located. I'm going to put on my light because I do want to talk about some of these things. And it may a philosophic type discussion, but I think it's appropriate.

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

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Will, members. You know Senator Chambers just made an argument that was strongly in favor of us letting our Investment Council invest these monies in bonds and similar safe investments, such as Senator Wickersham pointed out. Business is there to forward its selfish interests, he's correct, to see that their stockholders make money, he's correct. We have a problem with doing that when the state tries to operate these kinds of private enterprises. We saw the experiment with the state trying to run all of the...all of these types of things in Communist Russia. Today Communist Russia has shown that that economic experiment failed; that enterprise is better in the hands of individuals than in the hands of bureaucrats. We are encouraging the Russian economy to privatize, to get the hands of their agricultural land into the hands of private people, as well as the rest of their business world. And yet here in Nebraska we own millions of acres in the public name and try to manage that with a bureaucracy. It won't work. It hasn't worked and it won't work in the future. Senator Chambers has put forward the idea that we're investing these in volatile stocks, and I'm sure that the portfolios and the Investment Council show that these