

February 26, 1996 LB 681

Initiative 300 and that the debate on Initiative 300 should be held on the floor and not with any end runs, and to look at it. I think that's probably one of the things that I agree with, even more than I do the present legislative bill. And, as most of you know, I introduced an amendment for the repeal of Initiative 300 and to see how perhaps we could handle it in statute rather than the constitution. And that particular bill was not even advanced out of agricul...the Agriculture Committee, which says that I don't know how we're ever going to have the debate that everybody says we should have in looking at Initiative 300. If you're concerned about end runs to Initiative 300, it's because there's quite a few people out there that find it very detrimental doing business in Nebraska, be it agriculture or ag related and how it affects the total industry, and yet the only way, when we talk about Initiative 300 and what we can do, for those entities that oppose it they say, well, see what you can do and whether or not it's legal and see how you can get around it, because there are a lot of I'm going to say lawyers and CPAs that are trying very desperately to figure out how they can get around Initiative 300. I guess the bottom line for me is to say I would hope in the future, when something is introduced and looking at perhaps the repeal of Initiative 300, if it could get to this floor, if we could have that open debate, if we could talk about Initiative 300, what is in the constitution, how it is affecting the agricultural industry in the state of Nebraska, and if there are some things that need to be done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hillman. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Madam President, and members of the Legislature. I will also stand in support of Senator Landis' amendment and probably take the opportunity to make a few more remarks, too. We have been trashed a little bit, on occasion, for not providing, I guess you'd call it, public debate on an issue, Initiative 300 issue. By we, I mean the Agriculture Committee. That process was handled like all processes are handled in this legislative body, there was a fair hearing, there was an opportunity for much debate in the press, there was opportunity for that debate even before the hearing. And then we've had the opportunity for some notice of it on the floor here by certain members of the Legislature. And I guess I have some objections to the fact that the Ag Committee seems to be getting bad marks for not doing it exactly the way that some