

March 28, 1996

LB 1205

they have brought us have not even come close to the amount of dollars we get from this land in its current condition from the rent we receive and from the bonuses that we receive. It doesn't look to me like it's a good economical move. I've told you before that I thought that our forefathers had excellent wisdom and foresight when they placed this land out there, every Section 16 and 36 across our state, and held it in reserve for that rainy day, I guess, or for at least guaranteeing some educational rights for our children, and we are going about legislation in this year that places a lot of fear on the part of school boards and administrations as to how they are going to fund their schools down the road. I wonder if it is really wise for us to make this decision today. I'm not... I am going to support Senator Bromm's amendment but I am not going to support the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN PRESIDING

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Dierks Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I, too, as Senator Dierks has, will take the opportunity again to raise concern about LB 1205. We talked about it both on General and Select File, but I think it is a momentous occasion to talk about the sale of educational lands that were part of the founding of this state, and as we come back to the bill on Final Reading, when it comes back up again, I do hope we all give careful thought to the decision we are making because it's a path once taken we can't go back on. I think back to the lands that we had that were sold some time ago, and I am sure many of us, looking at the value of those lands today, wish that perhaps the decision made some years ago perhaps had not been made. And if we had that land today and had that in our portfolio, what an asset it would be for the children of the state of Nebraska through the Educational Trust Fund that we have. And if we take this step, years down the road, maybe it's tens of years, maybe a hundred years from now, we may, likewise, see a Legislature looking back and wondering why in 1996 we decided to take this course. So I think the long-term perspective is important and I hope, as we consider this further, when it is readdressed on Final Reading, I hope it will be defeated. Thank you.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Withem.