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SENATOR DIERKS: I thought that I ought, Mr. President, thank you, and members of the Legislature, I thought that I ought to offer a little comment on the meeting that Senator Chambers talked about. I might have mentioned it briefly in the opening yesterday, but we did go at the request of the packers, the Committee on Agriculture met with them. We weren't all there because I think Senator Schrock was in DC at the time, but we did have a meeting with them, and I tried to leave a message with them, and I think I told them this maybe three or four times to start out with and at least when we left, that I had a purpose in this legislation and that it was to provide that farmers and ranchers in the livestock business could make a living again from that enterprise, that we were operating in the red, that the beef industry had operated in the red for five years, that the feedlot industry had operated in the red for five years, and that it was time for them to make some money. And we knew that they had operated in the black and had quadrupled their record profits in one particular instance from the last quarter of '98 over the last quarter of '97. And I said the bottom line is that producers are going broke and you're making money and you've got to help us. They brought up the idea that, well, we're in a cycle, cattle cycle, and I mentioned this yesterday too. The downside of the cattle cycle doesn't last five years. They mentioned that we work on supply and demand and I told them that we have never produced, except for one year, 1950, we've never produced more cattle, more beef than we've eaten in this nation. And I don't know if you guys that were there remember this, but they argued with me on that and it became a, yes, we do, and, no, we don't, sort of a situation, and I finally just let it go. But I knew that I was right and I've got the information from the US reporting services that that's true. We have not raised more beef than we eat in this year except...in this country except in 1950. That's 49 years ago if my math is still working. Then they talked about, well, we have contracts, and we have to honor these contracts. Well, in the swine industry alone, there are over 30 contracts that are available, and those contracts have all been devised, in the way I look at it, to favor the packers. There was one called the "ledger contract." I think it's probably still in effect. That was one of the most ridiculous things I ever saw. They promised that the price of hogs would