

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 1999      LB 835

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Raikes, are you finished? Senator Cudaback, you're recognized for further discussion on the advancement of LB 835.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President and members, I guess much has been said about this bill and I can't...I don't want to reiterate every thing, but I guess we all want to go on the record for something that we believe in. Senator Chambers alluded to an ideal world, well, there won't be an ideal world and we all know this, and I don't think the farmers or the packers or the feeders, or whomever, want an ideal situation. I don't think they want a set price. We don't want to make it mandatory that hogs bring \$50 or the cattle are a certain price. This isn't the goal but we simply can't stand the swings, the swing this high and swing this high. In the middle, somebody falls out of those swings and that has happened and there is nobody to replace those people who fall out. That's the problem. Some people just simply cannot afford to take these swings. It's done. They are done for. You've seen them. I've seen them. My family have seen this situation. I shouldn't bring a family situation into it, but I will anyhow; 10 dollar hogs in December, 30 dollar hogs in February. You can't have these swings. It takes you down and we need these young people here. Now if packers say they can't do anything about it, and they say they're doing nothing wrong, fine. Maybe they aren't. We're probably not accusing them of doing anything wrong. Nobody said this, but at least it brings it to the attention that something is wrong. And if we can work together to correct this, whether Congress can do it, whether the Senate can do it, I asked Senator Kerrey when he was here a couple of months ago. I said, do the people in the east, do they understand what's going on here, and he said probably not. He said probably not, and they probably don't. If every thing is going your way in your district, in your area, you know, so be it. You can't understand another person's problems until you're in his shoes. Now whether that's an accident or in a death situation, you just simply can't understand somebody's problems. You can't feel it, and why should you. We'd all be crazy if that was the...if that was the case. You just simply can't, and they don't understand what goes on. Somebody said I'm already crazy, so I heard that back there in the back, so...and she's laughing now, but that's beside the point. But, anyway, I lost my train of thought here.