

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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in all categories, showing Nebraska and the United States changes. And I want to call your attention...I did misspeak, it's 978 young farmers under 25 years old, not 934. But there's a 25 to 29 percent decline, 25 percent decline in Nebraska, under the age of 25, over what it has been, 1992 to 1997, in other words a five year. There's all...there's 28 percent in Nebraska, from 25 to 34-year-olds. Then it goes to 45, to 54-year-olds, that's where there is the largest proportion of farmers that started, probably, 20 years ago, in the seventies, when things looked fairly rosy, if you recall. We had an increase in our exports to Russia, in '73 prices were quite strong, we had the effect of inflation, which was helpful for a while, and then turned into a disaster in the early eighties. And so there was an increase in those people starting at that time. And the rest of it shows that we have a decline in ages 60. There's an unusual amount at that level and so on, and still quite a few farming in their seventies. The point being that we need to do something to encourage young people to come back to agriculture. And then I've shown another...another chart that shows the age, not only in...not percentages, but as age. And then I've handed out another sheet that shows the cost and use estimate of LB 630. I want to comment on that. There's a little confusion. I'm assuming that Senator Brashear is getting \$30 million because the Revenue Committee did a 20 percent cut, from 100 down to 80 percent, 20 percent of \$150 million, I guess, is the \$30 million that he's talking about. But I want you to understand that my proposal...that isn't...maybe I ought to ask Senator Wickersham, where he thinks that number is coming from? May I ask Senator Wickersham a question?

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wickersham, will you yield for a question? And you have one minute left, Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Senator Bob.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yeah, I'm...

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Could you explain the \$30 million that I...

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: No, I can't.