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April 12, 1999 LB 630

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...if I'm wrong?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: I...I went back and I spoke to Senator Brashear's staff. He was still speaking. I was going to ask him where he got the \$30 million number. I'm unable to guess where that number comes from. It doesn't relate to either one of the fiscal notes that you see in your machine. We do not have a fiscal note that is based on the committee amendments because they haven't been adopted yet. But what we believed was that that might be about \$1.5 million in the first year. And it was...the committee amendments are really an attempt to balance out the program so that the LB 775 credit reductions, that are provided for in the bill, balance out against the obligations that we might expect to see under the Beginning Farmer Act. Now, I guess, we won't know what the Fiscal Office estimate of how well we've done that is until we see a fiscal note.

SENATOR CROSBY: Time.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: But,...

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. (Visitors introduced.) Continuing the debate on committee amendments, Senator Tyson, followed by Brashear, Beutler, Brown, Wickersham, Wehrbein, Suttle and Vrtiska. Senator Tyson.

SENATOR TYSON: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body. I have to confess that I have what might be called a visceral desire to vote for LB 630. But I also have to confess to you that the numbers that have been bandied about this Chamber this afternoon net out to zero for me. I do not understand them. I don't know if we have or if we can obtain the economic data regarding the shift in population. And there is certainly an out-migration from the rural portions of Nebraska, including those surrounding my district. But I don't know how much of that depopulation is caused by the economics of scale costs. The day when you could go out and buy a combine for relatively little money is gone. You can spend literally hundreds of thousands of dollars buying equipment of a size. And the size of equipment that you purchase is matched by the increasing amounts of land that a farmer must have. One hundred and thirty years ago, there was the Homestead Act, and that got you a