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language and make it unlawful for a packer to be engaged in farming or ranching, and I believe that's where we need to go. The people...I have, as I try to remind Senator Dierks so that whenever I'm on the opposite side he won't think any worse of me than he might otherwise, I have since 1983 supported Initiative 300. I'm not trying to undo Initiative 300. Initiative 300 was adopted by the people of the state of Nebraska and is a part of our constitution and it so stands, and I don't think the opponents of Initiative 300 have ever made the case they'd like to have us think they made of how it's hurt us. I think our livestock industry, except for the prices that our producers are receiving now, is thriving. I'm not opposed to Initiative 300 and I'm willing to maintain its integrity, and I'll speak more to its enforcement later. But I don't believe we should go beyond Initiative 300. I don't believe we have a mandate, constitutionally or otherwise, to do so. And I don't want to send the wrong signal to our packer industry. We want to send some signals, but we don't want to send this signal that they can't own, keep or feed the livestock they're going to slaughter. I urge the adoption of AM1299. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. Senator Wehrbein, followed by Senators Brashear, Dierks, Vrtiska, Bromm, and Chambers. Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, this is one of the more difficult issues of this particular bill. First of all, I'd like to ask Senator Dierks a couple questions about a similar issue but not the same one, Senator Dierks.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: And this is on the main bill.

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: As you're aware, there's some concern about the section on contracting of hogs and the food safety meat quality requirements that are in that particular section. This is on Section 9, which limits the price differentials to only carcass merit, location and acquisition costs. Would it be your understanding that carcass merit would include characteristics