

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

April 15, 1999 LB 835

to use that same definition that troubles me. I believe the Legislature, from a judicial interpretation standpoint, will be...it will be determined that we were making a deliberate distinction from the prohibition of Initiative 300 and it was...and the words mean what they say and say what they mean, which is, packers may not own, keep or feed. And that's what I'm trying to bring to the attention of the body. I think if we were to adopt AM1299 then we are continuing on a consistent definitional basis the prohibition that is in Initiative 300.

SENATOR DIERKS: If...if we define "production" and say that it's distinguished from holding livestock, production infers adding livestock weight, holding infers making livestock wait, w-a-i-t wait, until they're slaughtered, I don't think there's any Attorney General in any state that would confuse packer ownership of cattle at the time that they are being slaughtered with packer ownership of cattle for the purpose of putting on weight. And as far as production is concerned, when you get to the slaughterhouse, they don't even have facilities to feed cattle. Those cattle are not brought in, the hogs either, to those slaughterhouses until it's time for slaughter. They don't have the ability or the...they don't have the feed on hand. There's...it's not a question of, when those cattle get to the slaughterhouse, are they going to put weight on them,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...or those hogs. Those cattle are going to be there for slaughter only. And so there's...that...that particular provision as far as packer ownership of cattle doesn't apply at the time of slaughter. I wanted that for the record, Mr. President. With that, Senator Wehrbein,...did you call a minute?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Yes, I did, Senator.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay. Senator Wehrbein, you asked a question. Okay, I guess he's not here. I'll just relinquish my time to the floor...to the Chair.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Further discussion on AM1299, Senator Vrtiska.