

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

April 15, 1999 LB 835

animals is prohibited from providing nutrients sufficient to keep the animal alive and maintaining it until slaughter. As far as the term "production," that does not simply mean converting beef on the hoof into hamburgers, pork roasts, and I'm going to see who's listening, and pork chops. Some of my farm colleagues understand that you don't get pork chops from cattle, but some of my city slicker friends don't. They think that there's one animal that produces mutton, pork chops, and hamburger, (laugh) one animal. And you ask them, well, how does the animal do that? They say, well, the front part of it gives the mutton, the middle part gives the roasts, and the hindquarters give the pork chops, and you have to go slow in explaining things like that. But in the same way that my farm colleagues understand that there are different animals from which you derive these different kinds of meat, those in the industry, whether they be the producers, the packers, the processors,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...they understand the terminology of the industry. Senator Brashear has not yet in any of his discussions, and if he speaks again I hope he will do so, show me where this language suggests that the packer cannot own these animals, cannot keep them alive until they reach slaughter, and whatever else the language provides for. My advice would be to not start adding additional language, because the more you add the more you could cause a court to say, well, if these people who understand agriculture are going to define "production" in a different way from the way it's understood, then maybe they mean something different from what it means and it's too vague for the court to say what it means. It would be legislating and we can't do that, so we'll just strike it down and let them start again.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I would rather fly with the language that we have here.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Chambers. (Visitors introduced.) Continued discussion on AM1299 to LB 835, Senator