

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

April 15, 1999 LB 835

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, and that same prohibition in Initiative 300 would pertain to packers, would it not?

SENATOR DIERKS: Yes.

SENATOR RAIKES: So it seems like...I guess the question I wanted to address to you, you specifically mention packers in 835 but don't mention retailers even though presumably they could...they could be roughly on the same footing on this issue.

SENATOR DIERKS: Well, I suppose that's true, but we think that the retailers are already cared for in the Initiative 300 statute...constitutional amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay. One other question, Senator Dierks. If you had a slaughtering operation that, say, was sufficient in size to qualify as a packer and maybe this operation...the...and I don't know much about this, but I'm thinking, for example, of an operation that would specialize in slaughtering cows, this is a very seasonal, as I understand it, market. There are certain times of the years when there are a lot of cows available for slaughter and then other times of the year practically none. Now, if you're running this operation, it's important for you to maintain an even flow through the plant in order to keep your costs in line, or whatever the reason might be. It would...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR RAIKES: ...it wouldn't be possible under LB 835 for you to inventory slaughtered collect...or inventory animals collected during the seasonally high time so that you could slaughter them during the seasonally low time?

SENATOR DIERKS: Depends on the animal unit limit, and we just changed that with an amendment to this bill. We've changed it from 50,000 a year to 150,000.

SENATOR RAIKES: Okay, and would you explain the significance of that to me regarding this issue.

SENATOR DIERKS: You mean the numbers?