

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

April 22, 1999 LB 835

the federal Agricultural Marketing Service, but they aren't being reported to the public. My goal here is to make certain that we do not have two separate systems--the Nebraska system that we pay to put in place and then the federal system that takes over. And we've had more than a little debate recently about what happens when the federal government decides to take over and have its way. There are thousands of prices that would need to be reported daily under LB 835. This is a complicated matter. It is not as simple as just striking one certain blow for agriculture and for livestock producers. It's a complicated situation. It's marketing. It's free market. It's economics. It's agriculture and it's about not, in my judgment, not going it all alone. The Agricultural Marketing Service has spent several months experimenting with a model that can handle all of this information, can function the way that it needs to function in order to break this adverse circumstance. It will be several more months, after the passage of state legislation, before we'll be able to have any fulfillment here. It seems to me that if the federal government is going to do it and we, under Senator Dierks' leadership, are a part of the pressure to cause the federal government, together with our congressional delegation, to bring that about, it seems to me that this delay is a reasonable delay. We ought to adopt it, have made our statement with regard to the fact that we want this problem addressed, and wait. We will be back in session in another year. We will be able to see what happens. I think we can walk the walk with all the other people in the nation who are trying to get a grip on this problem. I urge the adoption of AM1196. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Brashear. (Visitors introduced.) For discussion on AM1196 to LB 835, Senator Dierks, followed by Coordsen, Chambers, Raikes, and Brashear. Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, of course I stand in opposition to this amendment. What I described it as this morning over at the Farm Bureau breakfast was the opportunity for the packers to kick our farmers and ranchers around for another year, and that's not what we're after. The part about doing it together with the federal people and other states, let's be realistic. A year ago