

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

April 22, 1999 LB 835

someone must take the lead. Today, in my part of the country, you cannot sell a hog. When I started in the business, every barn, every town that was over 400 in population had a livestock sales pavilion. Today, you have to haul to a buying station or to Farmland Industries. You cannot sell a hog. When I started feeding calves many years ago, if you had one or two head that you'd fattened, you could take them to the sale barn down the road, the sales pavilion that I just described, and there were five or six or seven packer buyers, all representing different interests and all competing against themselves. A little later, as we expanded our operation to the extent that we had feedstocks available, we started haul...having those hauled to Omaha to the stockyards, which was a great thing. And you had all of the packing companies then in existence going by, walking on the pathways on top of the pens, checking the cattle. And the bid might have not been what you wanted but it was the best bid for those quality for that day, and you had competition. Somehow, folks, we have allowed all of that to escape, and we have allowed all of that to escape primarily because those of us in agriculture are willing to accept what our betters tell us is good for us. And today, according to the statisticians at the university, we're looking at losing 15 percent more of already small bases of agricultural producers in the state. And we're afraid to be out in front for the nation in saying here's a good idea, let's try it. Someone has to be first. Why should we not be first? The time is now...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...to be first. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. For discussion on the Brashear amendment to LB 835, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, is Senator Schrock in the Chamber?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Schrock?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Oh, he's coming, so I will begin while I wait for him to get to his mike, because I'd like to ask him a