

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

April 22, 1999 LB 835

mine. I didn't tell them to go into the business of raising these things that Dole is doing, too. If somebody would come to me and say, but looky here, well they wouldn't say it like that. They'd say, (clearing throat) see here, my good fellow, if you allow Dole to continue unimpeded, then Senator Suttle is going to be bought out by Dole, Senator Bourne is, Senator Quandahl, Senator Smith, Senator Brashear. Then if you wanted to buy these products, you can't buy them from anybody, except Dole. And if Dole is the only one selling, do you think they sell that to you because they like you, or do you think they sell it to you because they want to make money? Well, being the kind of person I am, I'd probably say because they want to make money. (Laugh) Then they'd ask me, if the price is controlled by one person, do you think that price is going to be all the traffic will bear, or is it going to be geared to what can be afforded by the people who don't have a lot of money? Well, I'm not so foolish that I think corporations are in business for charitable purposes. These people in agriculture are going to have to stop just arguing by saying, feel sorry for me, or it costs me more to produce this than I can sell it for. They're going to have to appeal to some self interest in the people who are going to buy these products. If there are no consumers, the big companies can't make it either, but they create, they create a desire for products. They persuade consumers that this is what you want, and they persuade the consumer to want what that particular company is selling. So I think it's going to be necessary for more communication to occur between people in agriculture and people in cities. Do I think it will occur? Certainly not, it doesn't even occur on the floor of this Legislature, it doesn't. It's back and forth. And somebody will say, help my arena, and I will make sure your little town gets some of the money. And they call that communicating and cooperating. That's foolishness. Agriculture...in this Legislature you all get a little, tiny piece of something and you're so dumb that people in Omaha say, well that's enough. We get 70 percent, they get 30 percent to spread among all of them, and not one of them gets enough to do anything with. But you keep them so narrowly focused, and they've got on blinders, that they say, "ooooee", look what we're getting; we in ag are getting 30 percent. But is each one getting 30 percent? No. There's 30 percent for all of them,...