

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

April 26, 1999 LB 630

Senator Wehrbein, I'm going to vote "yes" on this bill. I'm going to vote "yes" against my better judgment. I'm going to vote "yes" against my better instincts. I'm going to vote "yes" against what my mind, what my intelligence tell me is the appropriate thing to do. I'm doing it, Senator Wehrbein, because...just because. I can't find a rational reason for me to vote "yes" for this bill, so I'm just giving you a vote on this one. I think it is unwise for the Legislature to create the impression that a serious problem is being addressed when, in reality, it is not; and when I say "addressed", I mean we're taking action which is going to have a substantial impact on resolving the problem. This bill, no matter how I read it, no matter how I construe what has been said in defense of it, for the life of me I don't see this bill doing anything to bring a young person into farming, nothing. If I cannot afford to buy a 727 or a combine today, I can't afford to buy it three years just because I've worked for somebody who wants to sell their farm. I am not going to accumulate enough money to buy that farm. A banker's not going to say, Ernie, you really worked hard out there, sun, rain, all through the bad weather, the good you were out there so, even though it's not wise, I'm going to give you the...I'm going to give you a loan to buy this farm. I don't believe that's going to happen. And certainly there's nothing that's going to move in that direction based on our giving some old guy a tax break. The two don't even relate. So let this be my vote on behalf of charity. There are people who support this bill hoping against hope. They know that this bill is not the answer to anything. And, Senator Wehrbein, if I could make a doll that looked like you and stick pins in it, you'd feel it, that's what I'd do. You are making me suffer a great deal because of this bill. I'll bet you there will not be another bill while I'm in the Legislature that will have me twisting in the wind like this one does. I know it's not going to do any good. All I can hope, Senator Wickersham, is that it does no significant harm. But there are going to be some people out there licking their chops and rubbing their hands because they're going to get that tax credit for three years and then sell the farm anyway and the person who worked is not going to be the purchaser. I know it and probably everybody on this floor knows it, and I don't have to know anything about putting a seed in the ground and doing what's necessary to make it grow something that I can harvest and sell. We're not even talking