

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

April 29, 1999      LB 404

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The amendment is withdrawn.

CLERK: Senator Dierks would offer AM1479, Mr. President.  
(Legislative Journal page 1708.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Dierks, you're recognized to open  
on AM1479.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the  
body. AM1479 was introduced because of a General File  
discussion that Senator Hilgert and I had on LB 404. It's  
intended primarily to regulate cervine animal production, other  
words, elk production for the most part. Even if the amendment  
is adopted, the animals kept for entertainment or educational  
purposes would still be subject to importation disease control  
procedures established by the department. The bill...this bill  
that we've introduced is not intended to heighten regulatory  
requirements but the amendment just makes it clear. What we do  
with the amendment is, it says: This section shall not be  
construed to require a municipal, state, or federal zoo, park,  
refuge, or wildlife area, a bona fide circus or animal exhibit,  
or any private, nonprofit zoological society to obtain a permit  
in order to own, possess, buy, sell, or barter a domesticated  
cervine animal. That's for the elk producers and this amendment  
relates to the zoos, and Senator Hilgert may wish to comment on  
this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hilgert, on the Dierks amendment.

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you. Briefly, I would like to thank  
Senator Dierks for agreeing to this amendment. It doesn't  
certainly have any problem or a conflict with the intent of the  
bill, which is, of course, to go and to regulate the  
domesticated cervine producer industry. It does protect the  
integrity of our nonprofit zoological societies and, namely, the  
Henry Doorly Zoo certainly, which is in my district which I'm  
a firm advocate for. The zoo, if I may beg indulgence and boast a  
little bit, in today's paper it shows that we are second now in  
the nation regarding membership. Let's see, it's second in the  
na...membership nationwide, right after San Diego Zoo, said  
Eugene Mahoney, director of the Omaha Zoo Foundation