

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

May 5, 1999

LB 870

our attention. Under the third part of this amendment, an exempt livestock operation can change hands without a permit being applied for. Certainly those livestock facilities that are required to have a permit, if there is a change in ownership then that permit will have to be reapplied for. With that, I thank Senator Beutler for bringing these issues to our attention and I think we have made LB 870 a better bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I just want to get a couple things. I'm going to support this amendment, but I just want to recognize I handed out a handout that...some data I collected a year ago. It's dated March 30th of 1998. It just came on your desks. But I...sometimes I get tired of agriculture being picked on, and we're talking about this morning the potential for discharge and I don't deny that for a minute, and I don't think most farmers and the livestock operators want to discharge into the waters of the state of Nebraska illegally any more than anyone else. But I just want you to know that everyone is not pure, and I passed out here what the Omaha Plant/Missouri River treatments is, the Papio Creek, the Omaha/Missouri River Plant. Omaha Missouri River Plant bypassed 26 million gallons in '93 of raw sewage; '95, 37 million; '96, 66 million; '97, 30 million gallons. I was reading in one of the handouts here about how terrible it was in North Carolina, which I abhor, don't misunderstand me. They bypassed 22 million gallons and that makes national news almost. Look what Omaha does yearly, annually. Papio Creek, 266 million were bypassed in 1994. I know we had some last year, because I remember seeing the data in the paper. It's announced don't swim, don't fish, don't grow downstream from Omaha when they do this, so it's legal, I guess. So I just want to put it into perspective. No one is perfect and I just wanted to call that to your attention. I'm going to...I'm going to support this, but I do want to ask maybe Senator Beutler a couple questions on AM1645. What, in your mind, constitutes a high probability or a high potential for discharge?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator, I don't think I can envision on the