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to also stand to oppose this amendment. You say it's a fee but I would say it's another tax that we have to pay to operate, and I don't think that's the right thing to put on the people, and also the task force that was formed in LB 1209, they came back with their report and they said that they did not recommend no fees after the operation is going. And I think that the money that has come in so far is because of lower personality (sic) over there has not been as much but I understand the last few months now the figures are getting higher all the time, and I think the money will start coming in this next year when they get able to inspect more operations and get them going. So with that, I am going to oppose it and hopefully the rest of you do too. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Wehrbein, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I, too, am going to oppose the amendment and I suppose that is no surprise. But I want to dwell on the fact, I know you're probably all tired of hearing about it, about the costs of doing business in agriculture, but the real fact is that there is no way to pass it on. I understand what Senator Beutler is trying to do. We do cash fund and I'm supportive of cash funds, by and large. Securities tax, we have premium tax, even raise a significant amount of money for Nebraska. So Banking, Insurance, many, many of our departments are cash funded. We certainly got our share of them. Probably 25 to 30 of our agencies are cash funded. But, by and large, agriculture can't pass on those taxes and so I hope you don't think for a minute that truly the banking industry pays out of their profits for that...for those inspections. They pass that on to their customers in one form or another. And I know you can make the point that those industries are very competitive and, therefore, they have difficulty maybe in passing those on. But the fact of it is they're consolidating fast too for that same reason. All the industries we're talking about are consolidating as fast as they can so they can get bigger and spread those costs over more area, whatever, and it's happening in agriculture too. So perhaps in a sense, it depends on the philosophy of where you want to head with the size of agriculture today. Putting these in place just accelerates this consolidation that we're seeing