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LB 835, 870

matter whether the price is controlled by the buyer or the price is controlled by the seller unless a monopoly situation exists. And if a monopoly situation exists, we should be attacking that with government, with all the power of government, and that's why I supported LB 835 and other careful initiatives to be sure that the producer segment of our industry is not being manipulated...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...by a monopoly. But assuming that it's not, then those who buy have to adjust their prices in accordance with supply and demand, and they have to be sure that there are enough producers out there to produce all of the demand that they have. I work for a title company. You might say we control our prices, but I can assure you that if our competition doesn't increase the price when we get an additional cost, we're not free to increase our price, and that becomes a matter of supply and demand and profit margins, just like it is in the agricultural industry. And you certainly, well, I am going to stop at that point because I think I have almost no time left. Thank you.

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

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President. I appreciate Senator Beutler's amendment. I think what he's attempting to do here is what we were attempting to do in LB 1209 and that was create somewhat of a balance between fees that the producers would pay and General Fund appropriations that the whole state would pay. It seems to make sense that we share in the responsibility for the environment. Unfortunately, when we planned and put together LB 1209 last year, we had only anticipation and projections of what revenues would actually be raised. The projections fell far short, and instead of the amount we were looking at that would have been over a quarter of a million dollars, we ended up with just over \$50,000, a much, much smaller amount. As a result of that, we end up with a deficit appropriation this year to pay for the inspectors and the cost of the inspections that, as a regulatory body, we think is important that DEQ does. It's not to be done in terms of a