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LB 605

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Vrtiska, on the Raikes amendment to LB 605.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just rise again to support Senator Raikes' amendment. I think, as has been demonstrated, he makes a valid point that we ought to recognize. I do have to tell you also I was over and talked to Senator Wickersham, and he said he also supported it but he was afraid to get up and say anything. (Laughter) And so with that, I want you to know I support the bill, and if Senator Wickersham does want to say anything, I'll give the rest of my time to him.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Wickersham. Senator Stuhr, on the Raikes amendment.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Legislature. I guess I just want to finish telling the other side of the story, or a little bit more of the story. That, yes, that they did close, but the amendment says that they have to prove that they actually did the expansion which they did, and they will have to prove. I did check with the president yesterday. He said some of the information, I think it's very interesting that we targeted one plant and looking at their final year report without looking at everyone's financial statement. And that some of the information, if you read the very fine lines, it says "estimated", and it was estimated to be at a much higher cost for expansion than was indicated. Also in 1998, they bought contracts at \$2.85 from farmers and then ended up selling those contracts, which is a business decision, but it's the other part of the business, and ended up losing \$3 million for, I mean that was their loss in the following year. So just to correct those statements and the fact that it would be nice to, if we're really going to pick out one particular plant which, as I indicated, there are, the way the amendment is written, there are other plants that also will not maximize their credits during that 5-year period starting with 1995 and going until December 31 of the year 2000. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. On the Raikes amendment, Senator Beutler.