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March 7, 2000

LB 213, 778

you're recognized to open on LB 213.

SENATOR SCHMITT: Yes, Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, as Senator Cudaback would say, this is a simple bill, but it does quite a bit but it's really a short bill. LB 213 would allow a freeze brand to be used as a brand of record in Nebraska. Currently, freeze brands are restricted to use as in-herd identification only. LB 213 would change that and allow freeze brands to be registered and used like a hot iron brand for proof of ownership. There are ranchers who would like to use this more humane method to brand their cattle. LB 213 provides them with the choice of the traditional hot iron brand or freeze brand as the recorded brand. It doesn't change anything as far as the hot iron brand. It doesn't change boundaries. It doesn't do anything other than allow them to use the freeze brand as the recorded brand, and I encourage you to support the committee amendments and then advance LB 213 to Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Senator Dierks, on the committee amendments to LB 213.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. As you will note in the committee statement, the committee amendment strikes the original provisions of the bill in order to amend the relevant statutes to carry out the purposes of the original bill. At the time that LB 213 was introduced and considered by the committee, it amended sections 54-101 and 54-101.01 to allow freeze brands to be used for purposes of applying a registered ownership brand on livestock. These sections were repealed by LB 778 enacted last session. LB 778 was a reorganization of the livestock brand laws. The pertinent sections governing the permissible methods by which recorded brands may now be applied are now 54-198 and 54-199; 54-198 currently requires that only recorded brands may be used for purposes of livestock identification, and prohibits the use of a freeze brand for applying a recorded brand; 54-199 contains the requirements for recording ownership brands. Currently one of the restrictions or requirements for obtaining a brand recording is that the mark or symbol to be used shall be applied by hot iron only. That's for ownership. The committee amendments continue a presumption that brands are recorded by