

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

March 23, 2000 LB 936

eat than pay insurance for health insurance. I think anybody in this nation who likes to eat ought to be involved with what we're going through here, ought to be involved with wondering what happens to the food supply, where it comes from, how economical it is, how safe it is. We have the safety factor with individual farmers doing the work. We have economics involved with farmers doing the work. Where we lose a little bit is when these value-added incentives we put on the farms, on these products we raise, are transferred to the retail market, we lose the value-added part of it. So I just want to encourage you to support this amendment and this bill. I want to...I want to tell you another little story. You know, Senator Wehrbein and I served on that Ag Structure Task Force this summer, and we met, I think, six times and with a group of people from across the state, and at each one of these meetings, we had economists visiting with us. Agricultural economists came to talk to us about ag structure. The economists that we talked with all have econometric models that they go by and these are the models that we heard about. They neglected to tell us, or I think that they should tell us, that there are other things that you plug into econometric models. I hate to get into an argument with Senator Raikes. It would be a fruitless thing for me. If we could discuss cesarean sections in heifers, it might be a little bit different, but when I go to talking about econometric models, it's difficult. But I do think that there is something else we have to consider and that is the fact that these farmers and ranchers, they bring another element to the econometric models that we talk about. They bring the blood, sweat and tears of their own production, the work they are willing to do, the length of hours they're willing to spend. It's a different kind of a deal. It doesn't show up in econometric models. There's...that should be plugged in all these issues we talk about. There is an effort that these people put in that other people don't, and we need to recognize that. This bill and the incentives that are offered there are a great addendum to what's happening to our...what's going to help our farms. We need to do this. Let me just read you into the record...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Less than one minute.

SENATOR DIERKS: ...I wanted to read into the record for you a letter that was written to Governor Johanns by a Michael Bacon,