

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1234

in there in the northeast corner of your district, so that guy may want to sell 10 percent elk to Senator Janssen there in his store and maybe these people that were raising ostrich and emu would like to have 10 percent of their product going into that store. And I don't know where we end with this, but I haven't seen Senator Schrock come back yet and I don't know how much longer I can talk, but I guess I'll yield my time back to the chair.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Schmitt. Further discussion, Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Senator Crosby. I was kind of minding my own business and trying to listen, and Senator Schmitt caught my attention and I had to speak a little bit. The longer that we perpetuate the idea that one segment of agriculture is benefited at the expense of another, and that we have to each grab our own ship and row our own boat, the more difficult it's going to be for us to accomplish anything for agriculture. Those comments, even though I'm not saying anything that Senator Schmitt said is not true or that the perception isn't true, those are killers for agriculture. And let me tell you that the benefits to the cattle feed product are terrific. They are terrific. They reduce the cost of gain, they give you a chance of profitability and so it's a benefit that they would not have if we didn't have the ethanol industry. Let me also say that when we stand here and we holler about tax relief, we talk about spreading the tax burden out so we don't have such high property tax, who are we kidding if we're not going to recognize the benefits of increased economic activity through jobs, through the spin-off from the construction, the economic activity and the income that's generated from an industry like that. If that doesn't help all of agriculture, then we are being extremely short-sighted. We don't deserve any property tax relief unless we're going to support industries that help share the economic burden of fueling this state. And this is one of the industries that helps generate economic activity, income and revenue, to help spread the burden of running this state. Now that is a message that some farm organizations sometimes fail to recognize, and I think it is absolutely necessary not to...to leave the impression on this floor that we're not going to support the ethanol industry