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FLOOR DEBATE

March 20, 2003      LB 608

Senator Hartnett, followed by about 20 others.

SENATOR HARTNETT: (Laugh) Mr. President, members of the body, wanted to...I serve on the Revenue Committee. And this bill, as it was, LB 608, I think if you look at the committee statement, I think everybody supported it. This was one area, this one here, I supported eliminating the slaughterhouses. And the reason I did that is because where I come from, where I grew up at, up in northeast Nebraska, where Senator Engel's district. And over the years, they have had a bad actor, as we're calling it today, with IBP first that were there. They would test everything. They would take them to the border with anything they did, environmentally and so forth. And then eventually Iowa Beef was purchased by Tyson. And I passed out a sheet yesterday. Tyson is under investigation, federal investigation, for smuggling workers, some of their employees. And so, you know, I think there are good pack...and I do support what Senator Bromm is trying to do with this amendment, because I...you know, I know from, you know, the people that are rural area,...I represent mainly a city area...that maybe this is the right approach. Rather than just limiting it to one industry, we make it broader, for all the people that don't follow the rules. And I don't see Senator Brashear in the body, but I think he was talking about the counties losing the population. I raised the question in our committee, Senator Brashear, do we have too many counties? (Laugh) You know, we have 93. But we...that was when the county people were trying to take some money away from the county people. But they said, no, we're all right, we have...it was probably like, we have too many...do we have too many school districts? We ask the school people, they would say no. But...and I have lived in the rural areas. But I...what I see happening is that...and I said it yesterday...is I see that we have cities that are going to be center point around that. We're going to have the Norfolks, and you're going to have people living 40 miles away, or 45 miles away, that want to live in a small town. And maybe they're employed in a place like...I'm using Norfolk, up in that particular...and I think, simply...and I'm not a farmer, but I grew up on a farm...is that today you can't...visiting with Senator Tyson off the mike...you can't buy a combine (laugh) that cost you \$200,000 and use it for five days. You need lots of land. And that's what's