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FLOOR DEBATE

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Beutler at all. But it's not the place for this idea to be placed into the statute, without a bill and a hearing. So with that, I oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. Senator Beutler, on your amendment.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I want to go on and talk a little bit about the situation generally, and what we're dealing with. But since this debate is going to end in a few minutes, anyway, for today, I just wanted to ask Senator Bromm if in fact I'm reading his bill correctly. Is it true, Senator Bromm, that the largest hog operation in the state, regardless of the number of employees, would not have to cover its workers with workers' comp, so long as they owned all of the hogs in their operation?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you. So long as they own all of the hogs in their operation, Senator Beutler, that is correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Thank you. I would argue, members of the Legislature, that this bill goes too far in the other direction, as my amendment goes too far in one direc...in the other direction, the opposite direction. This is a vast expansion of the exemption, and it's covering operations, no matter how large they are, the large hog operations, the large cattle operations, even though they might employ 10, 15, 20, 25 people or more. And that, I think, is totally inappropriate, because at that point, surely the business is more like a business in our towns, and less like a family farm operation of 1912. But I wanted to go through this court case with you a little bit, so that you might get a deeper flavor of what the court had to say about the situation. And again, just to relate the facts to you a little bit, this is a fellow who injured his thumb roping a steer. And you might not think that injuring a thumb is all that big a deal, but I guess he was a trick roper and had a bunch of skills, and injuring a thumb was a little bigger deal than it might have been with the rest of us. In any event...and you know, another thing I wanted to remind you of when you're thinking about this, you know, workers' comp is not