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LB 754

has not been benefited under Democratic administrations. So I just want to make that clear before I continue with the discussion, so nobody will think I'm speaking for any party or for the city of Omaha. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers. You've heard the opening on FA1344, which is an amendment to LB 754. Those wishing to speak are Senators Bromm, Baker, Chambers, and Kremer. Senator Bromm.

SPEAKER BROMM: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to continue on a little bit in my response to Senator Chambers' question as to why we would want this component in the bill. This component of the bill was not inserted simply to influence where this bill might be referenced. I want to assure you of that. That section of the bill was created after looking quite far and wide, I guess, across the other states, to see what might have been done to encourage the production of livestock in those states. This section does not favor large livestock operations any more than it would the small operation. If I am a young farmer, rancher, I'm in the age of 20 to 30 years old, and I want to try to get ahead, and I'm not fortunate enough to have a family that has hundreds of acres of real estate as a base for me to begin on, I've got a tough time. I've got to somehow, if I'm going to rely upon grain production, I've got to find land to rent. And any of those of you who live in rural areas understand how difficult it is to find land to rent. If a piece of land comes up for rent, because of the economies of scale, which just are the natural thing in the agricultural sector, if I can rent that land and spread my costs across another 160 acres, or another 320 acres, I have a better chance of my operation being profitable. So the competition is very, very keen for the land. And the land is very...is a finite resource. There's not more acres being made available. In fact, with some of the urban sprawl, there's probably less acres being available every year. So what do I do? One of the ways that I might be able to get started and do something would be through livestock. It requires less real estate. If I can get financed and get started, perhaps I might be able to get ahead. And sometimes the prices are devastating and there's some risk. But people are learning how to reduce that risk through hedging and other