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April 4, 2005 LB 351

amendments. AM0885 as an amendment to the committee amendments is now pending, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 975.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock had opened on AM0885. So now we will go for discussion of AM0885 to the Natural Resources Committee amendments to LB 351. Senator Smith. Senator Smith waives the opportunity to speak. Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Would Senator Schrock yield to a question?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, would you yield?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR BOURNE: Thank you, Senator Schrock. This is an area that I'm interested in particularly, because of the events that occurred this last summer as it relates to rules promulgated by DEQ. And I realize that this is the Environmental Quality Council, and it seems like a pretty innocuous change. But I'm curious as to why, on the committee statement, members from the Nebraska Cattlemen and the Agribusiness Association testified in opposition to this change. Do you have any additional information regarding their testimony?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Bourne, I believe I can shed a little light on it. They were opposed to any change on the council. And of course, they're looking for a council that's friendly towards livestock production. And when we amended Senator Preister's bill to have the council go from 17 to 18, and...I'm sorry, from 16 to 17, instead of the 18 in the original bill, they still weren't thrilled about it, but they said they'd be okay with it. So I don't think they're working this bill.

SENATOR BOURNE: Okay. And just for clarity, Senator Schrock, did your...Senator Preister asked for 18 people, and adding a biologist and a minority. Now, does your committee amendment take the biologist away, or the minority member?

SENATOR SCHROCK: No, we add both of them on, but we eliminate the at-large position.