

Mr. ROBERT W. HEGSTROM. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is Robert Hegstrom, and I am Executive Vice-President of the Hastings Nebraska Chamber of Commerce. I might give you a little bit of history as we seem to be the prime target for the presentation of the opponents of LB 670. I would like to clarify one thing first, and that is that we have no intent to issue revenue bonds for the particular project that might be of the greatest concern to those here today. All over the United States for the last few years, the federal government has been phasing our military installations. We are phasing one in Hastings, Nebraska right now; we are phasing one in Sidney, Nebraska in the very near future and there is a possibility of several others around the state that may come up for phase-out over a period of time. Searching the state statutes, our attorneys found only possible way to acquire a municipality to such phase out land is under the provisions of the Industrial Development Act, passed by the Legislature several years ago. One of the requirements of the General Services Administration has...

Senator CARPENTER. Now, are you sure that what you are talking about is on this bill?

Mr. HEGSTROM. Yes sir, I am. I have to set a certain background in order to bring the committee up-to-date and give them the full facts on why we oppose the bill. When a base is phased out, the General Services Administration

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Senator CARPENTER. So, let us project this then a little bit further. Let's say that, you are going to lease this land in order to supplement the practicability of buying or leasing the land, whatever you are doing to acquire the land you have in Hastings like we have in Scottsbluff, the Kern County Land Company, who now feed forty-five thousand head of cattle. As a result of that, it is destroying for all practical purposes markets that the farmers once had? Now, is that what you propose to do? Is that a possibility?

Mr. HEGSTROM. I would say it is a possibility. The land that we are talking about in the main industrial area, we have not arrived at a definite conclusion on how we are going to dispose of it, how we are going to lease it. We don't have any resolutions or anything like that, but the intent now is put this thing up for a public lease situation and I would offer also that we have not kept anybody from coming up to talk to us about leasing land. There seems to be one concern; we have never turned anybody down on when they want to come out and visit with us and file a letter of intent on any piece of property out there.

Senator CARPENTER. I am a little bit surprised that the City of Hastings has an official policy practically, the policy of going in direct competition of those people who built up and made the community. No policy to do it... is what it amounts to. You bring these large people in with which these farmers cannot even begin to compete with. I know what I am talking about from actual experience, they have destroyed the livestock market in Scottsbluff County.

Mr. HEGSTROM. We are talking about here the fact that we trying to attempt to do provide a replacement for about nine thousand jobs that existed at the Hastings Naval Ammunition Depot.

Senator CARPENTER. They out there employ about fifteen people to feed about forty-some thousand cattle. What are you going to do with the rest of them?

Mr. HEGSTROM. First of all, we are not talking about cattle operations.

Senator CARPENTER. Well, you could be. That is what the bill prohibits to some extent.

Mr. HEGSTROM. Right.

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TOUR TO VISIT RANCH ALONG SOUTH PLATTE . . . OWNED BY COMPANY

(By Glenn Kreuscher)

NORTH PLATTE.—One of the nation's best known corporate names that has entered the field of livestock and agriculture will entertain livestockmen here Feb. 15, on a stop of the Lincoln County Feeder-Rancher Tour.

The stop will be at Gates Rubber Co. State Line Ranch that is located in a beautiful setting southwest of here along the South Platte River.

The 640-acre State Line Ranch looks like a paradise for wintering calves and that is just what Gates Rubber Co. has developed the ranch for with about 2,000 head of Hereford, Angus and Hereford-Angus cross calves making the most use of chopped hay and tasty additives.