

Approved _____
Date

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND SMALL BUSINESS

The meeting was called to order by Representative Clifford V. Campbell at
Chairperson

9:06 a.m.~~p.m.~~ on February 17, 1987 in room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representatives Goossen, Neufeld, Sallee and Dean, who were excused.

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes Office
Raney Gilliland, Legislative Research Department
Pat Brunton, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Sam Brownback, Kansas Secretary of Agriculture
Ivan Wyatt, Kansas Farmers Union

Representative Bryant made a motion to be allowed to split into two bills the legislation introduced at the request of Earl Gatz, D.V.M., Kansas Board of Veterinary Examiners.

Representative Wells seconded and the motion carried.

A motion was made by Representative Bryant to introduce a committee bill creating a division of rural initiatives as a joint Kansas State University - Board of Agriculture project similar to the FACTS program.

Representative Beauchamp seconded and the motion carried.

Hearings were held on HB 2253 with two conferees appearing before the committee.

Sam Brownback testified in favor of the bill. He stated that this was a personal appeal and not that of Board of Agriculture or the Governor, Attachment I.

Ivan Wyatt spoke in favor of HB 2253 stating this legislation could be very important to many people. Attachment II.

A question and answer period followed the remarks of each conferee.

Chairman Campbell announced this would conclude hearings on HB 2253.

Representative Apt made a motion to approve the committee minutes of February 3, February 4, February 10 and February 12. Representative Roenbaugh seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by the committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 a.m.

The next meeting of the House Agriculture and Small Business Committee will be Wednesday, February 18, 1987, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 423-S.

Statement in Support of Tract Selling
House Bill 2253

by Sam Brownback

This is a personal appeal and not that of Board of Agriculture or the Governor.

Whole thought.

When ill economic winds reach gale force need to provide a means to let people hunker down.

Allowing guy who carried too much debt into 80's to downsize and live to fight another day.

Don't want to hurt ag credit. Don't think this will. Could even help when joined with 14-day notice provision.

Allow land to be redeemed in smaller parcels so can keep a bit of operation together. Can't afford to keep all of it.

Still any need for this type of legislation? Yes.

2,189 nonperforming FCS loans in Kansas. 1,464 FmHA loans are delinquent.

Many economists think \$40 billion or more of total nationwide farm debt still has to be wrung out before agriculture is on solid ground again.

Some trends look to be going in right direction.

And, if operator can focus on domestic market crops may have some room for profitability.

Also, this law will get more land out of creditors hands and back into private hands. This will in turn get creditors their money back quicker and that's what they generally seek.

ATTACHMENT I
Feb. 17, 1987

Statement

of
Ivan W. Wyatt, Pres. Kansas Farmers Union
on

HB-2253 (Dividing by hand into smaller units for sale)
before

The House Committee on Agriculture & Small Business
on

Feb 17, 1987

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee:

I am Ivan Wyatt, Pres of the Kansas Farmers Union.

We rise in support of HB-2253.

HB-2253 can be a very important piece of legislation to many people.

Last year, during the legislative session we heard from a great number of people stating, if only they could keep part of the farm, part of their operation, the home quarter, or whatever, they felt they could make a go of the reduced size of operation for various reasons. But in too many cases they had been denied this opportunity.

It is important it be established that foreclosed land sales be offered in smaller units so at least the former owner or operator have the opportunity to purchase

such units of real agricultural property.

We feel not only is it of great importance to the former owner but also to the community as a whole. Preserving these smaller units will help maintain a viable rural community structure. This can be an important factor in revitalizing the rural community economy when agriculture begins that long awaited economic recovery.

The preservation of small agricultural units will be beneficial in the long term for Kansas agriculture because it can provide that starting place for younger farmers. These smaller units can also lead the way towards a more diversified agriculture in the future, allowing more value-added on farm livestock feeding or more labor intensive specialty crops.

Thank You