

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1020

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, Urging the Administration and Congress to prohibit packers from feeding and owning livestock.

WHEREAS, in 1919 the Federal Trade Commission declared that the Big Five Packers were in the position to monopolize all the nation's food supply; and

WHEREAS, in 1920 the Big Five controlled roughly two-thirds of cattle slaughter; and

WHEREAS, the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 was enacted to strengthen existing antitrust laws and to prevent these or other companies from monopolizing the meat industry again; and

WHEREAS, in 1983 the top four slaughterers had approximately thirty-six percent of the market, in 1993 the top four slaughterers controlled approximately seventy percent and are now over eighty percent; and

WHEREAS, three major corporations, Con Agra, Excel-Cargil, and IBP, control more than eighty percent of the beef packing industry and together control major shares of the pork and lamb slaughter industries:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-sixth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, the Senate concurring therein, that the federal Administration and the U.S. Congress are urged to prohibit packers from controlling, feeding, or owning livestock unless the packer is a cooperative in which the producers have sufficient interest in livestock or the livestock are purchased within fourteen days of slaughter. Packers currently feeding livestock should have a reasonable length of time to divest themselves of their livestock feeding enterprises.

Adopted by the House of Representatives,
Concurred in by the Senate,

February 26, 2001
February 28, 2001

Scott Eccarius
Speaker of the House

Karen Gerdes
Chief Clerk of the House

Carole Hillard
President of the Senate

Patricia Adam
Secretary of the Senate

