

April 3, 1979

LB 14

and opposed to LB 14. Many of the committee amendments are to clarify internal references. The more substantive amendments are it first establishes a three year trial period for the dry edible bean checkoff program contained within the act. At the end of the three year trial period, the edible dry bean growers in the state will vote to continue or discontinue the program. Secondly, it sets the beginning check-off fee at 6¢ per hundredweight. This fee would be in effect until January of 1981 and the commission would then be allowed to increase or decrease the fees but 10¢ per hundredweight would be the maximum checkoff fee. Third, it provides that the Department of Agriculture shall collect the fees and forward the proceeds to the Dry Bean Commission. The Department of Agriculture will be reimbursed for their expenses. Fourth, there is appropriated an initial set up fee of \$10,000 from the general fund. The general fund will then be reimbursed this money from funds collected by the commission no later than January of 1982. Fifth, there were objections raised at the public hearing that this act would be mandatory upon all bean growers in the state, therefore, a committee amendment was added to provide for additional election among the bean growers of the state to determine if this act should become operative. This is the amendment that we were talking to previously and which is actually one of the committee amendments. I move for the adoption of the committee amendments as amended.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, fellow legislators, I don't understand what the fight is all about. We're g'ving the bean grower the choice. Do they want it or don't they want it? We didn't give the wheat growers a choice on their checkoff. We didn't give the corn growers the choice on their checkoff but this is true democracy. This gives them the choice, do we want to be taxed to help our product? This is more than we are giving the people in Omaha. They don't get any choice on the sales tax but out in western Nebraska we feel that we should be fair about it. If we want to tax ourselves, let us tax ourselves. It isn't going to cost anybody in eastern Nebraska, southeast Nebraska any money. So I would ask that you support LB 14. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak on the bill after this amendment is adopted.