

PRESIDENT: And let's have some...it is getting louder and louder in here and it is very difficult to hear. Go ahead, Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: The amendment changes the first year's implementation from twenty-five cents a head to ten cents and the limitation eventually that the board could impose without coming back to the Legislature from a dollar down to twenty-five cents a head. Now this would give a start up of \$924,000 for the start up year, the first year of implementation and allow the board to go to \$2,300,000 without coming back to the Legislature. Now some of the conclusions that I feel have been drawn by some of the people and I think they are wrong. First of all, the beef industry will not necessarily decide who is on this board. This board is an elected board by regions and the membership of the board is not established until after the election and they will have control of these funds. There may be various ag groups working to get various individuals on this board and the direction it will go will depend upon that election. That is why I feel it is extremely important we don't overload it with funds because you can't say that the beef industry as such has plans because those plans, and they may well and do have plans, but those plans may not be accepted by that six member board that is going to be elected by regions. These are the questions that hang out in front of this piece of legislation. We need help in the worst way in the beef industry but I think it would be a mistake to move in this far and this fast until we see what the activities are and if the board a year or two from now has proven that they can use the funds and we need to go to a dollar a head, I might well support that dollar a head at that time because our beef industry in this state is a really major industry and the dollars we take from it could well offset if we can help the price structure out of a lot of our tax problems here in the Capitol and a lot of the total economic problems of the state. I have no scraps with these people on this relationship. We need better beef prices. Our industry is in trouble but I think we ought to move at it more modestly and I think the farmers of the state, nobody may be real happy with this but I think nobody should be too angry. It is a lot of money even with the reduction in it. I am reducing from twenty-five to ten cents the first year and the eventual possibility from a dollar to a quarter and that still leaves the eventual possibility of \$2,300,000. I would urge you to support the amendment. I would like to see this bill go over it but not with the large amounts that are incorporated in the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion is the adoption of the Burrows amendment to LB 953. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay.