

Some of them are mandatory. Secondly, you have no input as an individual producer to what that board...no matter how fine of individuals they are, and I do not disagree with that, the fact remains you have no input as an individual producer on what they decide to lobby for or lobby against, and if they are going in a direction that you do not like, there is nothing you can do about that either. At least if you keep the lobbying to the organizations you can join or not join, you can have input from the local level on up. You can influence the direction. If you want to compare government, then take the comparison all the way through. At least those people who represent government lobbying are selected. They represent an elected board. They represent an elected board that the people elect, and if they are lobbying the wrong way on an issue, the individual does have the recourse through an election. The checkoff boards, there is no recourse at all. I would hope that you not only reject the committee amendment, but the bill itself. It's the principle that is involved. It's a major principle and it's wrong to use checkoff funds some of which are mandatory for lobbying when the individual producer has no input to give direction to how those lobbying funds are to be used and in most cases will not be even knowledgeable of the position they are taking.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I probably should call the question. I think I'm the last speaker anyway so I thought I would just tell a few comments of this "rurban" senator who sits on the Agricultural Committee. I was very much impressed by the Wheat Board representative who came to tell us and who has demonstrated through the years that I have been here that they do very exceptional research. They have been highly involved in developing markets and in all phases of their responsibilities as a checkoff board. But part of their problem is that when they have done their research, when they have done their marketing investigations, they need to be able to have that ability to go to those government groups that make the decision. We spent a lot of money, all of us, going to Washington to influence those in government about our farm crisis, but these are people who routinely know their markets, know their business and can articulate this credibly to the various government levels that need to be told about their research and about their marketing. Now the opponents to