

April 2, 1985

LB 60

CLERK: 25 ayes, 8 nays on adoption of committee amendments to LB 60, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. Do you have anything else?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vickers would move to amend. Senator, this is your amendment on page 930 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: This is amendment number one up there, right? Okay, this amendment that I offer to LB 60 is a, in my opinion a very substantive and a very important amendment and was referred to a little bit earlier by Senator Pirsch and maybe some others, but the amendment would make all of the commodity checkoff programs that are in LB 60 refundable. It would make the funds that are collected by the checkoff programs in a situation whereby a producer, if he wished to get those funds back, would be able to ask for them and get them back. Under the current law we have one of the commodity checkoff programs that is refundable and that is soybeans and I passed out on your desk, you should have in front of you, the results of a survey that my office did yesterday and completed today by calling the Department of Agriculture in the various states that are listed there and you'll notice that of all the states that are listed, Kansas, Iowa, Colorado, South Dakota, Wyoming, Oklahoma, Minnesota, Illinois, all of them that have commodity programs, commodity checkoff programs, all of those states the checkoff dollars are refundable in each instance. Nebraska is the only one of those states around us that it's not. Now you'll also notice that lobbying is allowed in a number of those states. Those states where it says flat out, yes, that means that they've got a registered lobbyist lobbying for those commodity programs. Those that it says, no, but indirectly means that they do have the power to lobby, but they do not have a registered lobbyist registered. My position should be very clear to those, to some people at least that are interested in commodity checkoffs. I introduced a bill this year to eliminate the commodity checkoff programs and the reason I did is I wanted to raise the question of whether or not they're doing or going to be able to do what the intent was when they were created and I will say that since I've been in here I have