

that has these speakers lined up for recognition: Senators Haberman, Warner and Rod Johnson. The Chair will recognize Senator Vickers just to make another introductory statement about the matter to place it before the membership. Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, members, just to refresh your memory, just before we recessed I made some introductory comments on the amendment that is before you. The amendment is a very simple concept. As I indicated to you then, on your desk I have passed out to you a survey, the results of a survey of the various commodity checkoff programs in a number of states surrounding Nebraska that indicates that those states that have checkoff programs in every instance, the programs are, in fact, refundable. The checkoff dollars are refundable. The amendment that I'm offering to you would make Nebraska's checkoff programs the same as those other states. It would make all the checkoff programs, the commodity checkoff programs, refundable. That is the amendment that is before the body. As I indicated at the time, I think it is important that we give the commodity checkoff boards the ability to influence legislation. But I'm not willing to do that, unless we make...

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR VICKERS: Thank you, Mr. President...unless we make those checkoffs refundable. That is the amendment. I urge its adoption. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, I have you first on the list for recognition.

SENATOR HABERMAN: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Warner, do you wish to speak on the Vickers amendment? May we have order in the Chamber please, so we may hear the speaker. (Gavel.) Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Vickers kind of has me in a bind. The Legislature has indicated, by adopting the amendment, that they at least want \$1,250,000 available to lobby from the checkoff funds every year. And one of my strong objections, of course, is