

continuously what can the Nebraska Legislature do to assist in bringing back agriculture to a point at which they can say they are making money out there, and I've often said that as many legislative proposals that we do have in front of us, not a lot of those agricultural bills are ones that are actually going to make a difference in the country, that we have to take a more rational, logical approach to the problem. This, in my mind, is somewhat of a rational approach. It is there. We can use it. We can take part. We're using dollars from farmers and ranchers in this state for the purpose of helping improve their industries. As I pointed out in my earlier speech and one of the reasons I hesitate to get up again was the fact that many of the disasters that we have had in the farm have not been because of the weather, they have been there because of actions that government has taken upon agriculture. That is, in itself, the biggest problem we are facing right now, the uncertainty of the '85 farm bill, the uncertainty of whether we are going to be able to get loans to farmers who need the credit. Those are the real issues in the farm sector today. I guess all I'm asking you to do is not kill this bill. This is one of those self-help bills that we could use. I recognize that it also is a question of philosophy in your mind about checkoff programs in general. I think that you are going to have to weigh that on your own mind. However, all I am alerting you to today is this is one simple bill that purports to do something for agriculture that we can use to help ourselves. I would urge you not to kill the bill, in fact I'd urge you to work together and put our energies to a good use by advancing this bill and hopefully, on Select File, if people still have some problems with the bill, find ways to work those problems out.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, followed by Senator Vickers.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As an urban senator I have to admit that I'm ignorant on this checkoff system and how it works. I can tell you in all honesty that twice, when I was coming into the Chamber this morning, I was lobbied. I wish I could tell you the name of the organization, but one called me aside and asked me to vote for the bill, and then later another one called me and said vote against the bill. I told them I would listen to the debate. I listened to the debate and I find out that the agricultural community is divided. As Senator Schmit will attest and I think most of you who have been here the four