

they don't support and suggested to me by others in this body, that you may be raising a very substantial constitutional question. And I suspect that may well be true. If you start looking at all the court decisions that you can't prohibit people from voluntarily contributing to campaigns without imposing freedom of speech restrictions, I rather suspect it is just as logical that you could not force a producer to pay to lobby for something that they were opposed, enforce it, and that is what you are talking about. Now I understand the ills of agriculture more keenly than I wished I did. But I don't believe and I don't think anybody believes that LB 60 is the solution to all those. We know that isn't the case. It is kind of a bit of a gross exaggeration to portray LB 60 as somehow solving this. Collectively, agriculture has many opportunities to voice its concerns. There are a variety of organizations that you voluntarily belong to and that is the proper way to do it. If we are not being able to do it effectively, that is our problem, but you don't solve that problem by getting government into the act in addition. And I would hope that you would leave this bill dead and recognize a very basic policy that you can't force a private business to contribute money for lobbying that they are opposed to. It runs contrary to every principle I can think of. When you are talking about lobbying for the business itself, it is a totally different issue than government or some of the other things that we strike at once in a while that lobbies. But to attempt to force individual producers to pay for something they are opposed to is absolutely, just absolutely wrong, and I would hope you would leave LB 60 dead.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vickers, and then Senator Pappas.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, this is an issue that is difficult I think for those of us who are in agriculture to really get a handle on. Senator Schmit, a little bit ago, talked about the difficulties in agriculture and the difficulties that he sees in the future and I share those same concerns. I believe the difficulties that we have in agriculture are going to be even more difficult in the next year or two. I don't think we are at the bottom yet. And, yes, I think that agriculture should be helping itself. And, yes, I think that the commodity checkoff boards should be allowed to influence legislation. But I am not willing to do that, I am not willing to allow them to