

take my dollars and lobby for me unless there are some checks and balances and the check and balance that I want, that I demand, is the ability to get my dollars back if they lobby for things that I do not believe in, or do not agree with. And I made the argument when this bill was up on General File last week that we had ought to allow all of these checkoff programs to operate in the State of Nebraska like they operate in every other state around us, and that is that the funds shall be refundable, that they should be available for refunds if the grower of that commodity wants them back. And in the vast majority of those states, if you remember the handout I gave to you, those commodity checkoff boards in those states can influence legislation. They can do the very thing that the commodity checkoff boards are asking for in LB 60. I am in the process of getting the information but I don't have it available yet, that would show the amount of dollars that are being refunded in those states and I can tell you from the glance that I have had at those figures as they are coming in, it would appear that there is not very many refunds requested in those other states. For the commodity checkoff boards to tell us and tell you as they have been telling you that if we have to give the monies back if it is refundable, it is going to decimate their programs, they are simply not telling you the truth because that is not the way it works in the other states. What they are telling you is that we don't want any oversight. We want to do as we damn well please. We want to have a closed shop. We want to take money out of people's pockets and spend it the way we want to spend it and to hell with them. Well, I am...even though we are in difficult financial times and even though I don't know whether I am even going to be in the cattle business a year or two from now to be paying those funds because of the actions of the federal government and because of things that the government are doing to us, I am not willing to start giving them that kind of authority. I am not willing to say to them, I trust you so much that I am going to give you the funds, no, nay, I am not going to give it to you. You are going to take it from me and then you do whatever you want to. That is what LB 60 is all about and that is what the issue is all about. And if the proponents of this bill will come to me or stand up on the floor and say, yes, we will agree to make them refundable, I will vote to revive this bill in a minute and I will help to revive it. But I am not going to help revive it under the heavy-handed attitude that the commodity checkoff boards are operating with right now.