

and thereafter for our consideration. It turns out to be, in my opinion, an extremely good process in that it is an appropriation as well as a review process and I think it is good for the agencies and the departments and it is good for our committee. I hope that it is continued. I believe that for the most part we had a good response from the people that were asked to go through this process and as a result I think the budget this year is well studied, we were well informed and had a good thorough examination. I heartily recommend the process that it be continued. And Senator Warner needs to be commended for it was his idea, I believe, that this was instituted and I am sure that it is a good one. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Carsten. Is there further discussion on LB 722? There is an amendment on the desk then. May the Chair take this opportunity to announce on behalf of Senator Withem that he has guests in the north balcony. They are 71 fourth grade students from Parkview High School in LaVista accompanied by their sponsor. If you would all stand, we would like to thank you for coming down here and welcome you to the Legislature. Amendment on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment that I have is offered by Senator Schmit and that amendment is found on page 1924.

PRESIDENT: Is Senator Schmit on board? Here we go. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, the amendment which I offer is an amendment which provides that the Corn Board shall have their own agency number. For those of you who do not understand what this means, it is an indication...the various commodity boards are at the present time, with the exception of the Wheat Board, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, but the boards operate independently. The boards set the program. They handle the funding. They decide who to hire and fire. They decide how they are going to spend their money, what the level of funding shall be, what rate...there is some...the Legislature has provided some flexibility in allowing them to set the amount of the checkoff. They make that decision. So what it amounts to is that the Department of Agriculture actually only