

rubber-stamps the action of the board. This effort here I feel eliminates one layer of the bureaucracy. I believe it makes the program more accountable and it requires the various boards to stand upon their own. I notice that the Beef Checkoff Board just recently I think took steps to hire a new man and I don't know if they had any problem with the previous one but I think it does give them some flexibility. In very blunt terms it has worked well for the Wheat Board. The Corn Board requested that I do this and so I have done it. I think that it ought to be done. I would like to see it done and perhaps if it works as well for the Corn Board as it has for the Wheat Board, we might want to change the policy for the Sorghum and the Beef Board. I would just... and maybe the Sorghum Board. I have not been one to meddle much in the affairs of these various commodity boards but they do handle large amounts of money. I have discussed it several times with members of the Legislature and there may well be a time I think when the Legislature themselves and the Appropriations Committee, in particular, may want to review the funding and the expenditures of the boards. And I think this is a step in that direction. I would be glad to answer any questions that you might have. But basically I want to say this that it should expedite the work of the board. It makes them more accountable. It doesn't take them away from the advice of the Director of Agriculture. The Director of Agriculture approves the change. I would move for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, do you have your light on to speak? Senator Wesely. Senator Haberman, your light is on. Senator Warner, do you wish to speak on the proposed Schmit amendment?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, this proposed amendment, of course, doesn't change funding. It is an ongoing discussion, I guess, Senator Schmit and I have had over the years. It is kind of a policy issue of whether or not these checkoff boards should be separate entities. It has always been my personal position at least that it made more sense to me that all these checkoff boards at least had some appearance of coordination, particularly those that deal with the grain that is raised, rather than separate entities that either can or cannot go their own way or work together, but at least there ought to be some appearance. If I was going to propose a change and if the wrong place is in the Department of Agriculture, then I think there ought