

Beef Board does have its own agency number at the present time and I would suggest that certainly there ought to be coordination. And I have tried to encourage that. It is true especially I think in view of the fact that we have a Sorghum Board and we have a Corn Board. Both of them are on feed grain and sometimes the efforts of the two might even conflict. And so we don't want to be involved in a process whereby we are funding conflicting programs. They are both going after some of the same markets and I have tried over the years to get them to cooperate and to coordinate. I have to confess I have not had much success. I want to point out, and some of you were at a luncheon a few days ago where the representatives from Taiwan were present and after they had just purchased 1,700,000 bushels of wheat here in Nebraska. I think the Wheat Board has probably principally because it has been in existence the longest, has developed a system whereby it works very effectively. It works effectively with its own agency number and I believe that the Corn Board, which is our largest commodity in Nebraska, ought to have its own agency number. I would certainly work with Senator Warner and anyone else if we could find a method whereby we could bring about better coordination of the checkoff boards. I think at the present time they probably appropriate, I think the beef people around \$1,800,000 a year. I think the various commodities probably do something like a million and a half, a million eight or maybe two million. And they have...if you took all of the authority of the various checkoff boards and raised the checkoff to the maximum, you would be looking at somewhere between 12 and 13 million dollars. That is a tremendous amount of money and certainly we have discussed it on this floor here, I would like to see it handled in perhaps a different manner. But I don't think it is going to be done unless we find more accountability. As I said, you have a sort of a hybrid situation. The checkoff boards make the appropriations, they make the decisions. They set the rates. The Director of Agriculture has absolutely no authority, none whatsoever, to raise, lower or cancel those appropriations. So he is in the position of signing off, so to speak, on a budget over which he has no control. I believe at the same time...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...the boards, if they want to hide behind the Director of Agriculture, have that ability to do so. I