

the cost. For wheat it is almost \$1.20 additional cost to ship the wheat on U.S. Merchant Marine ships as opposed to the foreign ships and, of course, I think that we should consider that when we're talking about the impact that this particular program has on agriculture as a whole in marketing our products overseas and to foreign nations. It has, I think, a very significant impact. The purpose for the Cargo Preference Act to begin with was for the purpose of keeping the Merchant Marine alive and unfortunately they chose to use the agricultural products as one of the areas that they wanted to ensure that they stayed afloat so to speak and that it has cost, as I said, close to 100 to 150 million dollars. Now all I am asking you to do today is to exempt agricultural products from the Cargo Preference Act. It is my understanding the Senate Ag Committee, the U.S. Senate Ag Committee, has taken a particular stand against the Cargo Preference Act. I understand as well that our congressional delegation have legislative bills in the House. In fact Congressman Doug Bereuter I believe has a bill in to exempt all agricultural products from the Cargo Preference Act and I'm not sure of the progress of that particular bill, but I do know that he is attempting to try and get that through the House and so this would simply reinforce what Congressman Bereuter is doing for Nebraska agriculture in the House of Representatives. I think it would be a good and positive statement for agriculture as a whole to be exempt from the Cargo Preference Act. It would help us, I think, from the standpoint of marketing our products a little more easily, a little more cost effective to foreign nations and individuals who buy American agricultural products. So with that I would urge the body to adopt this particular resolution.

PRESIDENT: May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) I don't see how you can hear the speaker. The Chair recognizes Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this resolution. I want to commend Senator Rod Johnson for bringing it before us. When we were back in Washington, D.C., this winter or early spring, we were able to visit with some of the U.S. senators and U.S. congressmen about the Cargo Preference Act. They told us that it added from 50 to 60 and as high as 80 cents a bushel to some of the grain that was exported and we just can't afford this much of an increase. We're fighting the high value of the