

SENATOR PAPPAS: (Response inaudible.)

SPEAKER NICHOL: Take up the amendments. All right.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have is by Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Is Senator Schmit here?

CLERK: The next amendment is by Senator Wesely, Mr. President. Senator Wesely's amendment is on page 1395 of the Journal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, members, this is an amendment that is very important to me and I think to many of you as well, I would hope, on this bill. The bill basically attempts to allow for the commodity boards in this state to lobby on behalf of the interests of agriculture. But one of the concerns that I have had is the lobbying of the state legislature, state level government through these commodity boards that are state agencies even though we have other lobbying efforts of local governments, of what have you, and some state agencies get involved in lobbying as well. It seems to me that this body and this Legislature and this state have always been very supportive of agriculture. A lot of times the issues that we get involved in here at the state level are kind of divisive among us in Nebraska if they do become controversial. But where we are all united as Nebraskans, and I think we are pretty well in agreement in a large part on a lot of ag priorities, is back at the federal level, the need for higher level of assistance, attention and support for agriculture is clearly in the best interest of Nebraska back at the federal government. So this amendment says that this lobbying activity shall be allowed at the federal level, and deletes reference to lobbying at any level, so that we do target this lobbying effort at the federal government. In talking to different individuals, I think this is an amendment that many can agree to. Clearly, with the 1985 farm bill coming up for discussion in Congress, our presence back at Washington is more necessary now than ever. It is very important that we have all the different farm groups and commodity boards, if we pass this bill back there, fighting