

\$2.00, \$5.00 and \$8.00. They are actually sending out letters telling people you are violating a law, we want the money. Well, now how much do you think it costs to send a letter from the Attorney General's office to try to collect this money? Five bucks. Then the county attorney is supposed to get in the act and go out and collect the money, but they are not doing it. They are not enforcing the law. I can tell you now that they won't enforce the law, they can't because these people aren't going to pay it. So let's give them the option that if they would like to ask for a refund, they may do so. It does not do away with the program, it just gives them the option that upon application for a refund they can receive it. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I rise to oppose the Haberman amendment. I understand where my colleague, Senator Haberman, is coming from. We did have a legislative proposal in front of the Agriculture Committee this year dealing with the beef check-off program and providing a voluntary check-off program as opposed to the mandatory one that was just recently adopted, I believe in 1983 by this body. Senator Haberman made a very good argument. There were a number of cattle producers from western Nebraska that came in to express their opinion on this particular issue and I think were very sincere in their comments to us that they felt that the check-off, a mandatory check-off, was, in fact, a tax on their cattle. However, the Agriculture Committee, at least the majority of that committee, felt that if, in fact, we were going to have a check-off program that all of the producers should contribute to the promotion and utilization of their product. That is the way the committee stood in that particular action on that legislation. Right now Senator Haberman is bringing to us the same proposal, except on LB 60. I can commend his perseverance in trying to provide to us a proposal with the beef check-off. However, I guess, as a whole, if we are going to have these programs that will effectively change policies made either here in this Legislature, or more specifically in Washington, then I think that they should continue to be mandatory. As you remember, when LB 60 was reconsidered the motion was brought to us by Senator Haberman two or three weeks ago. I did not support that because the farm group that I have talked to, who are supporting 60, have said if a voluntary program