

voluntary approach the small producer is the one that pays the bills. If you sell ten cattle, you are not going to worry about...you are not going to write a letter and try to get a refund of \$2.50. But if you sell 1,000 cattle or 10,000 cattle a year, you are going to be requesting that refund back. So what you have under a voluntary check-off, you have the small producers, who don't ask for their refunds, financing the program. I think those that get the greatest benefit should be financing the program. To me it was significant that the large producers, the livestock feeders, livestock producers, supported the mandatory check-offs. I found out that in my district the largest cattle feeders supported the mandatory check-off. Before the mandatory check-off it was the small producers that were financing it. So I'm going to have to oppose this amendment. I hope it will be defeated.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Nelson, please, then Senator Goll.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, oppose the Haberman amendment. I guess Senator Remmers put it very well. I did plan to speak on the bill itself, but since my turn came up on the Haberman amendment too...I have very serious reservations about this entire bill. In the first place, I, for one, would not do anything that might harm or help agriculture if possible. I cannot see a voluntary refund because to me this would kill the check-off boards. For the very same reason that Senator Remmers said, the...too often the large producers take advantage of the small producers and they get the very same benefits, or maybe ten times greater. I think for a refund to be refundable, or on a voluntary basis would simply kill the check-off boards. I think that they are very good. They were made to sell and educate and research and so on. I think that we need these boards. I also have reservations on the bill, as long as I'm speaking, what it would do to the farm organizations. They are the body that hopefully speak for farm legislation that would concern all groups. If I received a message when I was in St. Louis, one of the problems that we have on our farm programs, our exports, our commodities, is that we have too many self-appointed officials and I find this on the check-off funds. I sometimes wonder if this wouldn't be just another way for each state to send their own representatives to each point, wherever it might be in the world, for a free vacation and a free trip. Some may not be too knowledgeable on farm