

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, when we were back in Washington, D.C., I believe it was late February, Senator Chronister and I attended a meeting with a Department of Agriculture official in regards to the grade of grain and the condition of grain that we send overseas. He assured that they were taking precautionary measures to see that we at least loaded quality grain onto these ships. And now, they are also saving some of those samples, they are sealing them and locking them up so that when this grain gets overseas, that they and the foreign buyer would say this grain is bad, they could go back to these samples and say, well, we loaded clean grain, we loaded this type of grade of grain. So I think they are aware of it and I think what we need to do is just see that this good quality grain arrives at its destination in good condition, so I would support the resolution.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vickers, please, and then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, first of all I'd like to say that I support the resolution. I am as concerned about the problems of the grain farmers and the problems of the Ethiopian people as anybody. But I would also like to point out that there are probably a large number of Nebraska grain farmers, and I know this is just saying that we encourage them to donate 50 bushel, and I know that grain isn't worth very much, but it could still amount to quite a few dollars. It seems rather strange to me that we would say, or even indicate, and I don't want to indicate and I'm sure that the drafters of this resolution didn't mean to indicate that and I would want to make it clear that we really don't really expect those farmers of the State of Nebraska that are losing money all of the time raising grain, in an effort to help reduce inventories that are really largely the responsibility of the federal government because of their policies, that we expect them to give up some of their assets and that we expect them to raise that grain because we think that they have some moral obligation to feed somebody in some other country when it is a business. I hope that is not the intention. I'm sure it is not. I hope the emphasis of this resolution be placed on the...resolve, and that is that the USDA export grain subsidy be first and foremost targeted at those African nations that are in immediate trouble. I think this is...should be a national concern in the burden to provide