

from Idaho for the most part and they have been inspected and a fee paid for the inspection of this seed. The other seed companies throughout the United States, I understand, carefully inspect their seed for germination and whatever else seeds are tested for. So I oppose bringing this bill back in the first place for this kind of amendment to make the rest of us pay for what seed companies should be paying for. They have been paying for it in the past, and I think they should continue to pay for it in the future. I don't think we need another strata of government here to tell seed companies what they should do and to pay for the testing of their seeds, which I understand they do on their own. Now if any large seed company puts out seeds that don't germinate, believe me those farmers that plant those seeds soon find out about it. So the people who are proposing this in the first place, as I understand it, aren't pushing it anymore. And we have a bill out here floundering around that doesn't know yet who they want to pay for it, but they know they want somebody to pay for it besides those that it is serving. So I'm waving a red flag in front of you, both on the adoption of this amendment and, secondly, the passage of the bill in the second place. So this is one of those that slipped by easily without anybody looking. I wanted to alert you to the bill. I think it's a bad bill. I don't think we should pass it. And I certainly don't think we should add this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Nichol. There are no other lights on. I would ask Senator Johnson to make closing remarks on his amendment.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I will speak solely to the amendment and not to Senator Nichol's comments. Senator Nichol and I have talked about it, and we will certainly talk about it again once the amendment is adopted or not adopted and we're back on the bill. As I said specifically, the amendment provides for what we hope would constitute a compromise fee structure both for inspections and registration, and also to put in place a penalty section. Now I think what Senator Nichol is speaking toward is that there are some people who are upset with the fee structure as proposed. And that certainly is a public policy choice that you will have to make. What we are trying to do is, of course, come up with a way of funding the inspection process, and also the Nebraska State Seeds Lab. I think that those are worthwhile programs that