

good for agriculture. And I answered in a single word, nothing. The amendment that I have here today does do something for agriculture and for all of us. One of the reasons that we are struggling with a deficit of 40 or \$50 million, depending upon how you look at it, is because of the low prices we receive for agricultural products. We have been promised that we would have access to the export market. Secretary Baker was in Omaha earlier this week, told us that it would be a year or a year and a half before the exports would pick up. Secretary Lyng yesterday told us we could expect some improvement but it would take a while. What I propose here is a volunteer effort by the producers and the shippers to improve the quality of the grain from Nebraska. The amendment allows shippers in Nebraska to certify a shipment of grain as to quality, 50 percent better than the grain required. It would be paid for by the individuals who are requesting the certification from the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. It does not change or alter the grain standards in any way. It merely allows for a quality tag to be placed upon the Nebraska shipment of grain. There are at the present time some really sincere efforts by the Federal Grain Improvement Standards and those individuals in Washington who have been looking at grain standards to change those standards. This does not in any way affect those. This is simply a volunteer effort. We have been...we have had instances in recent weeks and months where Nebraska has been able to put together this kind of a shipment. There is no certified method whereby we can certify or attest as to the quality. This would allow for us to do that. I move the adoption of the amendment. The amendment is on your desk and I would hope that if you read it, the principal part of the amendment starts on page 2 and goes on to page 3. That is the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak on this? Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do wish to speak on the amendment. This amendment is basically the rewrite of a bill that was introduced by Senator Schmit and others to basically clean up the grain in Nebraska for export. The bill was heard by the Agriculture Committee earlier this year and no action was taken on that issue because of the complexity of the issue and the fact that there was a great deal of opposition to the concept although no one seemed to disagree with the merits of the idea. The grain industry itself, the grain warehouse industry seemed to be very concerned, the elevators of our state