

withdraw the first one and replace it with the one that is on page 2011.

CLERK: Senator, I have other amendments ahead of you here.

SENATOR SMITH: All right.

CLERK: Okay? Mr. President, Senator Schmit would move to amend. Senator Schmit's amendment is on page 1984 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, this amendment here is an amendment to LB 1230 which we drew in an attempt to compromise some of the concerns that a number of individuals had relative to the cost of the previous check-off program. First we amend the portion of the bill which relates to the funding for the bill. This amendment calls for a 1.5 cent check-off on corn, wheat, and grain sorghum which will be collected only for an 18-month period. One cent of this check-off will be refunded if the producer desires. I believe that most producers will leave the money in the fund in order to allow for the maximum development of the ethanol industry. But in the event that they want it refunded, they can get back 1 cent of that 1.5 cent. Second, there were some concerns that we would be setting up an entirely new board with new administrative costs. We felt at the outset there were some legitimate reasons for this. I still feel that in the event this program had a longer life, that might have been the way we should go. But since we have only an 18-month program here, we have provided that the Nebraska Gasohol Committee will handle administration for the board and staff, and for the technical expertise. The board will also consist of representatives from the Wheat, Corn, and Sorghum Check-off Boards, and a representative of the public power industry. We've also made changes in the sections which allow cities, counties, and villages to apply for money for ethanol development. The amendment provides that the money may be loaned by the city, county, or village to the owner of a proposed ethanol facility. Also priority will be given to applications for loans rather than grants. This removes the concern that was expressed to some of us that there might be a windfall to an industry or to a company that was not worthy. We think this will resolve many of those concerns. I hope that in this fashion we're going to be able to raise the money for the ethanol development, which we need. We have added a