

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harris, please, then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution. As you will recall, we introduced and advanced...or passed a resolution recently in regard to an evaluation of the '85 farm program and its effect upon the ag economy. This is just another part of that '85 farm program. I commend Senator Scofield for preparing the resolution, introducing it. I urge its advancement. The only thing that I really have a concern about is their lack of understanding in Washington of the effects of a very simple idea, and that is the idea that they are going to, in their proposal, put out about 60 percent of this buyout beef on the market within a very few months, and then they were shocked at the market reaction, the resulting losses of millions of dollars to people in the State of Nebraska, and untold millions across the United States. I strongly urge the advancement, adoption of the resolution. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Rod Johnson, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I, too, want to rise to thank Senator Scofield for bringing this resolution to our attention. Last week the Legislature took, I think, two significant steps. One, we held a press conference to argue our case in this particular situation, with several senators being present to express their concerns over the dairy buyout program. And, secondly, this Legislature chose to add the beef checkoff program to those programs that can use 25 percent of their checkoff money for lobbying efforts. I think it...this particular buyout program highlights the ability of the dairy industry to lobby Congress, and to do the things that they want done in the farm bill. I think it is important for our cattle people, as independent as they are, to make use of the resources that they have in protecting their interests, if nothing else to be a defensive weapon against situations like this one. But I also see the checkoff program being used as an offensive weapon, in this case to not only protect themselves but to promote their industry in Washington and through Congress. If they do not, I'm afraid that further programs like this one will come down that will impact the cattle industry in this state and other states. And I think it is important for us to take a stand on this issue and, as I said in the press conference, express our concern over an injustice that is happening to the cattle