

that there are some here who can appreciate that and understand it. What we are saying here, Senator Haberman, is that we're going to do something to help ourselves and hope that in the process that maybe we will come along and find some additional help. I'd be proud to have some General Fund money. But I am not foolish enough to go to the General Fund at this time. I want to say also that had we done this seven or eight years ago we wouldn't be lower than a whale belly now in the commodity market. I think we know that. I want to point out also that a half a cent is a true cost there. That is a marketing cost. From my farm at Bellwood, which is only two miles away from town, it costs me a nickel a bushel, sometimes 7, 8 cents to haul the corn to town. Do I complain about it? No, I know that man's got to have that reasonable charge. Senator Vickers has pointed out the market goes up and down every day. We don't...we can't counteract that, we know that. This is a half a cent a bushel on 50,000 bushels. Fifty thousand bushels, ladies and gentlemen, that is \$250, \$250. Let me point out that that is a very nominal amount of money on a valued crop of about \$150,000. If \$250 is going to break the farmer then I would suggest probably we're going to be broke any way. I know where some of this criticism is coming from. I ask the indulgence of the Chair to be allowed to read a couple of items here. One of the farm organizations that opposes this bill, a good friend of mine, I'm a member of it, been a member for 35 years, started the program in 1952 in Butler County. They say that...they point out in their April 4th letter that this might cost the farmer \$250 a year. They point out in that letter that if we enact a sales tax, it will only cost, per person, that farmer \$27 per year, and it will only increase the telephone rates \$20 to \$30 a year if we pass LB 835. Then on April 14th they have a change of heart. They write another letter and they say that it is still going to cost you \$250 a year to pass LB 1230 if you raise 50,000 bushels of corn. But, they said, that along with the potential telephone rate increase, and the income or sales tax increase will take a substantial amount of a bite out of the farmers' annual income. In 10 days time they had a complete change of heart about the sales tax increase and about the telephone rate increase. Well, I can understand that. That is politics. I want to say this, ladies and gentlemen, you've got a good bill here that will do something for the farmers. It is going to help the farmers help themselves. And, believe you me, we can stop looking over our shoulder, we can stop looking back East for help. We know that help is not here in the State Treasurer, we don't have the money. So let's dedicate a small portion of our own money toward promotion. The federal farm