

SENATOR SCHMIT: Does...is there...and then I would assume there is nothing in the statute which requires any sort of accountability prior to the expenditure of the funds either?

SENATOR ROGERS: Anyone is welcome to go to a meeting. You can be a member, basically, I would be...to answer that question, I've been on the Pork Board for years. You can...anyone can join that. In fact, an outsider can go to the meetings and find out exactly, Senator Schmit, where the funds are spent. But the state has nothing to do with it once this bill passes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator, I've been to those meetings and you can find out more by talking to the sphinx than you can by talking to that board as to what's happening to the money. I just want to say this, the money is collected involuntarily from cattle feeders. It's collected on every...every time there is a transaction. I recognize that this is probably an exercise in self-destruction to speak against this but I want to recall for all of you that I proposed that a nonprofit corporation be created a year ago to utilize the ethanol fund for the purchase of the Hastings plant. To say that I was shot between the eyes is to put it lightly. In the case that I had proposed, the operation and the membership would be made up of those individuals. They contribute to the funds and each would have exactly the same degree of participation as his or her contribution represented. In this instance, there is no way that any cattle feeder can ever have any exercise over those funds without sitting on that board themselves. That is not likely to happen. Now we know the board is elected. Do you know, Senator Rogers, how many people voted in each of those various district elections that elected the present membership of the board? Can you tell me that?

SENATOR ROGERS: I can't give you the exact number but it's probably about like the percent of some of our general elections in Lincoln and outstate towns, probably about the same percent, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Would it be several thousand?

SENATOR ROGERS: I can't answer that numberwise.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes. I want to say this...thank you, Senator. I want to say this, I do not impugn the motives and the good