

April 30, 1975

PRESIDENT: Would you again identify the amendment you are talking about, Senator.

CLERK: Mr. President, this is an amendment to LB 74 which is a white copy set out in the Bill books.

SENATOR WARNER: It is 11 pages.

CLERK: It is in the Bill book.

PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, as most of the members know, this deals with a checkoff for soybeans, specifically, the money to be used for both research and improved soybean production as well as utilization and marketing and, particularly, emphasis on (inaudible) marketing. I think most of us who represent areas which have soybean growers concur with the intent and the purpose of the bill but there is concern as to how it can best be operated. The amendment that is in the book, let me state, is not totally technically correct. The emphasis...or the concept that I am proposing to you is that LB 74 as it presently exists requires an appointed Board to be selected from names presented to the Governor from the Soybean Association. The amendment that I am offering will call for an elected Board to be elected by soybean growers and then this Board would have the direct responsibility to the growers as well as to the manner in which this revenue is used. I have not attempted to correct some of the technical needs of the bill because if the body is willing to accept this concept, then it is relatively easy to make those changes so that the bill would be operable so that a Board to carry this function out could be elected. My concern is this that virtually every farm commodity group is interested in some kind of a checkoff program which can be used...that is, the revenue can be used to promote that product and I think most of us concur that that is a desirable type of thing to do but I, and I think others, have a concern that, at least, the concept that is established here will be one that then can also be applied to other commodity groups. Some states have appointed Boards, as proposed here. Some have elected. One of the arguments against an elected Board is the cost. I, personally, would visualize that as more of these commodity groups become organized with a checkoff program that elected Boards for all of them could be held within a single election on a statewide basis, and as a result, the cost would be very minimal. But I think when you are taxing people, taxing producers in order to promote that product, they should have as direct an input as they can possibly have as to the manner in which those funds are used and certainly an elected Board...

PRESIDENT: It is very...I have had complaints from members that they cannot hear Senator Warner because of the noise from the floor. We are having an extra long session so that we can get more work done. The Chair would again like to respectfully ask that there be more order on the floor. Excuse me, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Thank you, Mr. President. I would only conclude with this, Mr. President. As it is proposed, these Directors would be selected by districts. The language of