

March 22, 1979

LB 538

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those...do you wish to speak to the amendments?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, the amendments are the bill, Mr. President. And I would just like to say very briefly that the bill as originally drafted was not very specific, because we introduced it in a hurry in order to get it introduced by the Committee, and that we then drafted specific amendments under the cooperation of Mr. Bill Abell. The amendments and the bill provide the authority to the Department of Agriculture to contract with the Corn and the Soybean Board for the administration of those programs. When we passed the corn checkoff and the soybean checkoff programs we did provide the authority for those programs to contract with the Department, but the Department does not have specific authority at this time, in their opinion, to contract with the agencies. So that is what these amendments do. They are already performing the service, but it just clarifies any possibility...any possible problems of legal entanglements by saying specifically in the language that the Department of Agriculture can contract with those two Boards for the administration of the programs, and I move the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion first is the adoption of the Committee amendments. Senator Murphy do you wish to speak to the Committee amendments?

SENATOR MURPHY: Inasmuch as the amendments are the bill, yes sir.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay.

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator Schmit, if you would respond to a question or two?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, of course.

SENATOR MURPHY: Section 9. Under Section 9 you say the Department already is doing it. It has a staff and is performing the function, and yet in Section 9 we're creating a Director, a number of deputies, and assistant deputies, and they're going to be appointed by the Director, and I'm wondering if we are, Heaven forbid, opening a door for another labyrinth within the Department.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator, I hope we are not. As I said earlier, they...you know, right now we have a Director