

such a law. It was the intent to better the industry, to provide a better product and to make the public aware of it. It occurs to me that at least one board budget that I did look at was approximately \$700,000, and if the amendment were to pass, it also occurs to me that up 25 percent of that could be used. If my mental arithmetic is correct we're looking at perhaps as much as \$175,000. That is a considerable sum of money. I think that most of these boards have been effective in their lobbying. I think the best example I can think of in the terms of individual lobbying and pressure points, at least in this session, is LB 662. I don't believe there is anyone in here who could deny that there was heavy lobbying and pressure on that particular bill. I believe if individuals and groups want to lobby and feel strongly enough about a particular subject they are going to do it and I think it should be done on a voluntary basis. Massive lobbying can be accomplished and can be effective. I don't believe that we should take the money away from research, marketing and development. Again, I would oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I guess I'm always amazed when I hear people say we should not use tax funds for lobbying purposes. If you take away all the tax supported lobbyists out of this place, we'll be through here in sixty days instead of ninety days and I'm not so sure that we wouldn't have, as some of my friends have indicated, better legislation. The facts are that for many years the Wheat Board did use tax funds for lobbying. I want to point out a specific example. Again, several days ago we began a process of phasing the government out of an initial incentive program that was established in 1971, the gasohol program. That program was established in 1971 and the Nebraska Wheat Board put \$5,000 into a lobbying effort and without that money we probably wouldn't have passed the bill and of any one thing that has helped Nebraska agriculture in the last 15 years that has been it. And I'll tell you something, I was a freshman legislator and I would not have gotten the job done without the Wheat Board's help. The same groups who oppose the bill today, LB 60, opposed the establishment of that bill. They have opposed it for the last 14 years. Do you know what they have done to assist in the development of agricultural research? Not one blasted thing. I'm going to tell you something. I get