

Secondly, we have never yet in the last two days, at least, been able to reconcile the matter of partial funding and how that impacts a program, whether or not an underfunded program perhaps may not even qualify and may, therefore, be discontinued. I think that the \$50,000...I hope you will listen carefully, the \$50,000 for, let's say a two-year appropriation, we need it for two years and there will be those who will argue that we can only...we need only appropriate 25,000 each year. I will...I argue against that. I believe we need the \$50,000. We need it this year. If it works well, we will not need an additional 50,000 next year, nor any funds. But I believe that we need the commitment for two years, the \$50,000 for two years and we need it now and that it needs to come from the General Fund of the State of Nebraska. Now I know there will be arguments, some good ones, about the surplus of funds in the various checkoff programs, and there may be. And there may be some ability to utilize some of those funds at some time in the future. But I think we are making a mistake if we do not make a General Fund commitment and, thereby, place the entire resources of the State of Nebraska on the line, so to speak, behind this program. There has been a multitude of talk on this floor this year about economic development. There has been a lot of talk about lack of revenue. There has been a lot of conversation about turning things around in the State of Nebraska. We have given tens of millions of dollars of tax exemptions to businesses and to industries and to gambling and I suggest that we can afford a \$50,000 positive type appropriation for agriculture. I believe it's important that we do it and I believe it's important that we demonstrate that unless we do this and unless we once again return prosperity to agriculture, ladies and gentlemen, none of the bills you are talking about mean anything. I make that prediction flatly and outright it is not going to amount to anything because if the agricultural economy of this state does not pick up, Omaha and Lincoln will not survive, nor will industry survive, contrary to the rather unwise statement of one of our friends from Omaha. I would hope that this amendment would be adopted unanimously. I would be glad to answer any questions you might have and I can assure you that this program, in my opinion, is probably one of the more positive things that we can do to help the State of Nebraska, not just farmers, but the State of Nebraska. I want to point out that only last year that Congress enacted legislation that supposedly improved the grain quality standards of the State of Nebraska. In fact, in fact, they did not do so. They provided sufficient exemptions that we really do not have any tighter grain standards. One of the points of interest that was discussed of many of the states