

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Wehrbein, you have relieved all my worst fears. You said it is federally audited, and so from that point forward, there is nothing to worry about. If you like the condition the federal government is in today, you are going to love the direction we are taking with the beef council money. I have visited many of those offices overseas at my own expense. That is kind of the old-fashioned way of doing it, and I concur with what they are doing, and I concur with what they are doing, and I like what they are doing, and they have got some good people there. All I am saying is that it seems to me that we ought to know a little bit more about what we are doing with this money before we turn loose of it. I am not sure, Senator Wehrbein, or Senator Cudaback, or anyone else, that we had ought not to have some of this money. I wish we had a little of that money to do the kind of research that is necessary to keep the personal tax off the cattle in the next few months. I would suggest that you are going to be on this floor, you are going to be pleading for mercy, and mercy is not going to be forthcoming. Mercy is a short commodity on this floor where money is involved, and someone is going to say, well listen, fellows, you dumped 8 million bucks into a nonprofit group, no holds barred, no strings attached, because they are nice folks. So why don't you believe you ought to give the old county treasury, Podunk County, a few bucks to help keep up the roads that those livestock trucks wear out. And we are going to be hard-pressed, ladies and gentlemen. We, at least, ought to know more. Senator Wehrbein gave some numbers. I appreciate that, Senator Wehrbein, but I can tell you very frankly, I have visited with that board several times. That board has very little concern with several exceptions, with where the money is coming from, and where it is going. And I can say the same thing for some of the other boards, but the facts are that today, because 30 other councils do it this way doesn't assure me. Nebraska is the largest cattle feeding state. We ought to know what we are doing. We ought to know it, and I can tell you this. Maybe I don't need to be contacted. Maybe there was a reason why I wasn't spoken to about the bill. I saw the bill come across the board. It raised a red flag in my mind, and it still does, and I can suggest to you that today people on this floor will say, well, after all, the cattle feeder pays it, so what is the difference? Not many cattle feeders on this floor. Makes it very easy to raise the checkoff, makes it very easy to be used, ladies and gentlemen, against the cattle feeder. It is not just the cattle feeder that is on that National Livestock and Meat Board. Packers are there. Chain stores are there, many people