

April 3, 1979

LB 14

collected by all these checkoff programs are used for various promotional, educational, research and marketing development programs as well as the administrative costs. These checkoff programs are run by and for the producers and growers with the main aim in mind to increase the markets for and consumption of the market. The edible dry bean is certainly one product where promotion would increase the market of this product. At the present time, there is very little promotion of the edible dry bean. The average family knows very little of this product or the many and varied uses to which it may be put. Many individuals and farm organizations appeared in support of LB 14. These include WIFE, the Dry Bean Division of the Farm Bureau, Nebraska Farmers Union and several grower-processors throughout the state, mostly in the west end of the state. There was opposition raised to LB 14 at the public hearing. As a result of a newspaper poll circulated in the western part of the state, several growers indicated disfavor with the idea as a tax on their crop. To further meet with the legislative concerns of the area growers, an initial election and trial period were added to the act. Thus before LB 14 can become operative, the edible dry bean growers of the state must approve the program. Also after three years of operation of this program, the growers may again petition to vote and continue the...discontinue the dry edible bean checkoff system. There are some areas in the State of Nebraska that particularly in far western Nebraska where the edible dry bean is fastly becoming a very feasible crop. For a way to ensure that there will be sufficient research and promotion of the edible dry bean is to establish this self-help checkoff system for dry edible beans in Nebraska. I move that LB 14 be advanced to E & R Initial.

PRESIDENT: A motion on the desk, did you say, Mr. Clerk? Read the motion.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Keyes moves to amend the bill: Read Keyes amendment on page 1265, Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: Reluctantly, Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of the amendment. I was listening to Senator Fowler give one of his better speeches about rural and urban Nebraska and I was listening to Senator Nichol give his speech about what all we include in the crop now and it is almost every crop that is grown in the State of Nebraska has a checkoff. Now if there is any crop that is grown in the State of Nebraska that does not have a checkoff, this is our opportunity to