

May 29, 1981

LB 322

I have no problem with Senator Schmit's amendment....

SENATOR NEWELL: All right.

SENATOR BURROWS:on the bill, and I would refer it to Senator Schmit to further answer the question.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes. Senator Schmit, now that I have got your attention, and I do have both....

SENATOR SCHMIT: You always have my attention.

SENATOR NEWELL:and it's good that you would give me some attention. I would like to hear you discuss the merits of the Governor's objections a little more, or the....(interruption).

SENATOR SCHMIT: Lack of merits you mean.

SENATOR NEWELL: Well, either case. I would like to understand that part of the issue a little better whether or not this applies to other check-offs, whether or not this is a major objection of great significance. I really need to understand that before I will be able to vote on this issue.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Newell, when the Governor called and informed me that he would veto LB 322, he did not focus his objection upon the same objections that were stressed by Senator Beutler. He focused his objections upon those that were outlined by Senator Warner. Senator Warner and I have had a long standing disagreement about this and he has one point of view and I have another, and that point of view is shared by a number of us who support check-off programs. The check-off program is a program financed by the individual producers. Once the money is checked off it goes into the...it's called tax money, it goes into the General Fund, and is called tax money. Now, we choose to tax ourselves for various programs. The boards are appointed by the Governor. The boards are appointed by the Governor, and the Governor has strict control over that. We rubber stamp approval of them but that is it. If the Governor has any complaint about that, I am sure all he has to do is to convey that to those individuals and he can express his concern and that concern will be remedied. But there isn't any real reason at all, because as I pointed out earlier, Senator, once the board entered into a contract, the Director of Agriculture has no choice except to sign those vouchers.

SENATOR NEWELL: Okay, one question. How about the other