

this bill. He says it's obviously necessary. I talked with Senator Korshoj and he said that he was one of the persons who voted against this last year, but after hearing the testimony before the Government Committee, after hearing all of the horror stories and the problems that have occurred because we don't have a protocol office in our state, he is voting in favor of it, he supports it very strongly. I think if you individual members had been present in that committee, you would not be even considering this motion to kill. If Senator Moore had been before that committee and heard the testimony, he may not have even filed this motion to kill the bill. I think it is a worthy bill and I think it is worthy of your support and I would ask for your advancement of this bill after we do away with this kill motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, please, then Senator Coordsen, then Senator Weihing.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I have given this speech in years past in support of the bill or the concept of a protocol officer and I guess I will reiterate the same thoughts that I had on this for the new members who might be following the debate on this issue. I have consistently had an opportunity to meet a number of foreign exchange visitors to the State of Nebraska through the Mayor's Committee on International Exchange, of course, our commodity organizations that bring foreign visitors to Nebraska to learn more about Nebraska agriculture and, of course, the University of Nebraska. It's been a good opportunity for me to get to better know those individuals from other countries and their interest in this state and it has opened my eyes to the fact that we are living in a global society and especially in the area of agriculture. And I think it would be a mistake for us to kill this bill at this time. I believe that Senator McFarland and his predecessor on this particular issue, Senator Vard Johnson, really have hit upon an idea that's been long overdue, something that we need to do and I am going to vote against the kill motion and vote for the advancement of the bill. The only concern I have with this issue happens to be that the appointment of the protocol officer is made by the Governor, not that I have any problem with our current administration. My only concern is as you change administrations will you have a change in the focus of this program every time a new administration takes office. And so I would like to see more consistency in the program than that, but that's a technical problem that could be worked out in the bill