

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator McFarland...I had a note to pass over the bill at one time. It is dated. I assume you no longer want that or am I incorrect?

SENATOR MCFARLAND: That's correct. We can take it up.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Moore would move to amend the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORF: Mr. President and members, earlier this morning we had a vote on the A bill on LB 177 and even though I did vote no on that A bill, the proper place to fight this battle is on this bill here and if, indeed, the bill is going to pass, we are wise to, obviously, have the funding to do that. But the amendment that I brought forth this morning, I kind of, I guess, after the debate on General File, I came to the point where, you know, if indeed we do need to have such office, there is possibly some ways that we could fund it within existing funds without appropriating an additional \$80,000. As I said on General File debate, the only way you keep a program from growing in its expenditures is to keep it from starting. That's exactly what I'm trying to do here in some ways, but what I have tried to do with my amendment, quite simply, is set up the Protocol Office Cash Fund, the thought being that there is a variety of state agencies and areas of state government that are already doing something in this area. Instead of appropriating \$80,000 in new money, let's just take the money that present government is spending and put it into this office. Now what this amendment does, it sets up the Cash Fund and it also goes into a variety of the commodity checkoff boards and grants them the authority, statutorily, to award grants to the protocol office without being a mind...last year when we debated this bill and this year when we debated this bill, Senator Coordsen and some other people that are very in tune with what the commodity checkoff boards do, saying how desperately we need to have some sort of central location to do all this work when we have foreign dignitaries that are coming over primarily to look at our agricultural goods. Well, I guess my attitude is that if those commodity checkoff boards think it's such a good deal, then let's have them pay for it and you can tell from the actual...the budgets that I've listed there, they could probably afford to do that. And what those, the six boards that I'm