

wasn't printed, I mean it wasn't simply...it was not back up from the print shop nor was it in the Journal. It was my intention to have that on your desk this morning. It wasn't so I did have it copied and handed out and I have also included a summary that says what the amendment does as well as outlining the fund, the budgets of all those affected commodity boards and the budget of the Department of Economic Development. With that, I urge the adoption of this amendment and then the eventual adoption of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland is next, but may I introduce a couple of guests, please, of Senator Kristensen. Under the north balcony, we have Doris Thompson of Minden, Nebraska and Ken Meyer of Wilcox, Nebraska. Would you please stand. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator McFarland, followed by Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Mr. President, fellow senators. It's nice that Senator Moore has taken such an interest in my bill. I appreciate his attention to this. Gives me a chance to speak on it more often. I'd like to say that the bill is a good bill. It advanced on General File and I think enough of you are familiar with it to know that the Protocol Office is something that is desperately needed in our state. It is something that has been lacking for years. It is something that almost every other state has and even many of our larger cities in our country has. With regard to the amendment, I appreciate Senator Moore's fiscal restraint, but I am concerned about placing the burden or the cost, particularly on the grain boards. I think that is particularly inappropriate to place it on them exclusively, because the idea of the Protocol Office is that we will host foreign dignitaries and foreign businessmen. Now, granted, many of those dignitaries and many of those business persons will be here because we're an agricultural state and because they are interested in trading grain, they are buying our grain or doing that type of business with us, but they will also be here on other types of business in addition to agriculture. They are here to...they have visited our state for the purpose of other industrial businesses and other sales businesses and other types of enterprises. It is not just limited to ag related or to grain board related businesses. So I think it is extremely inappropriate to try to shift the cost exclusively to the grain board checkoff programs. I think this is the type of program that should be provided for through the General Fund just like the other states in our country provide