

for their Protocol Offices and that is how they are primarily funded. So with that, I will make it brief and close and ask you to vote against the amendment and advance the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Coordsen is next, but we do have some more guests that we should be recognizing. Senator Robak has some guests under the south balcony, Steve Jahn of Columbus and Diana Rich of Columbus. Would you folks please stand. Senator Peterson also has some guests under the south balcony, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lindsay of Norfolk and Laura Nelson of Newman Grove. Would you folks please stand. And Senator Elmer has some guests under the south balcony, Ron Barger of Culbertson, Charles Coleman of McCook and Doug Martin of McCook. Would you folks please stand. Thank all of you for being with us today. Senator Coordsen, followed by Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, oh, Scotty, Scotty, Scotty, Scotty, Scotty, Scotty, what a tangled web we weave. The grain boards are supported by farmer checkoffs and in all of the statutes that create these, their funds are delegated toward the development, utilization and marketing of a product. Within, within those responsibilities has traditionally fell the hosting of foreign trade teams visiting our state in the area that concerns their particular area of responsibility. LB 177 doesn't change the responsibility of the boards in any way in supporting their part of the developing of markets for Nebraska products. The only part of LB 77 (sic) 177, that addresses that is on page 3, where the Protocol Officer would maintain a clearing house of information on foreign governments, foreign officials and the customs of foreign government which would help the commodity boards in a small way in making sure that their efforts were right. To ask the farmers of the State of Nebraska to take their money which has been dedicated toward the marketing of specific products to use to benefit the general population, which is what LB 177 does, is plain simply wrong. The impetus behind 177 is to enable the State of Nebraska to have a cohesive plan for visitors, state visitors of the state. I think that while I understand the reasoning behind this, this is probably the poorest source of funding that we could come up with if we worked all week on it. So I would urge the lack of adoption of this amendment. Thank you, sir.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, then Senator