

a five, \$10,000 grant for the Protocol Office which would do a variety to things in our marketing, I would think it would be a wise investment on their part and this amendment simply gives them the option, makes that option available that they could, if they so choose, give some money to the Protocol Office. And as far as Senator McFarland has said, he doesn't think it's fair that this bill would benefit all of Nebraska. He doesn't think it's fair that we just burden just the ag sector and the commodity boards. Well, this amendment does not do that. As I said, it's just an option for the commodity boards and also it's...also it would allow the Department of Economic Development to award contracts to this board. So, you know, it's all permissive legislation. The funds could go from there but the fact of the matter is people are saying...what they are saying this morning is, this is a good idea. But it's not such a good idea that we can go out and get funding for anything other than just General Fund tax dollars. Well, if it's such a good idea, you can get funding from the commodity boards, from the Department of Economic Development, and this is a well worthwhile project to be funded with existing tax dollars or existing commodity check-off funds, instead of appropriating new money for it.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator McFarland, then Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: I'll pass, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Okay. Senator Schellpeper, please.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER: I call the question.

PRESIDENT: You're the last one, but thank you. Senator Moore, would you like to close?

SENATOR MOORE: Yes, I'll briefly close. As I've said, the arguments, I find this interesting that this is a really good bill, but it's only a good bill if the commodity boards don't have to pay for it, or it's only a good bill if we appropriate new money to it. That defies sense, I think. If the Protocol Office is worthwhile, let's set up a cash fund and let the commodity boards contribute to it, at their leisure, if they want to, and let the Department...if the Protocol Office will do such a great amount of work for economic development in the state, it makes perfect sense to me the Department of Economic