

Agriculture Grain Marketing, I believe, is an essential cog in this wheel of improving the knowledge of what is available for purchase from the United States. It provides a block of influence with regard to the political decisions that are made and certainly has had, and should we continue to be a member of it and should those memberships continue to improve, an increasingly important role will be played by this Compact in correcting some of the situations that exist out there today. We're fortunate in Nebraska that over the last eight or ten years, as I think Senator Schmit indicated, we as a state through a number of different agricultural organizations, not the least of which are grain or commodity boards, have been very influential in achieving certain improvements in the Federal Grain Inspection Standards. The Nebraska Wheat Board, a number of years ago, was in the forefront of changing the grading standards for wheat. They weren't able to get them changed to the extent that they should have been, but they made definite improvements. The efforts that are being conducted, as Senator Schmit indicated with regard to the clean grain shipments of wheat, which are really relatively small when compared to the volume of grain that leaves our country, they are extremely large in enhancing the public knowledge of the purchasers of our product as to what we are able to deliver and go a long way to dispel the fairly widespread feeling around the world that the United States is the supplier of last resort because "they have dirty grain" which is not true. People get what they pay for. It is essential that we continue to be members of the compact. It is essential that we continue to support in other ways all of the efforts that are ongoing. We are fortunate in Nebraska that we have a farmer, Ralph Olson, from Ceresco who was recently appointed to the Federal Grain Standards Advisory Board. Ralph is a Nebraskan that has been involved in improving the quality of all grains, not only wheat, but all grains nationally and promoting that internationally for quite a number of years. I think we're on the verge of making some substantial breakthroughs in raising the perception of quality of what we are able to provide to our customers. Our maintenance of membership in the Interstate Compact is certainly...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...a good part of that effort and one that we should sustain. Let's not send the wrong signal this morning. Thank you.