

cattlemen, the Farmers Union, and also most of the individual members of the Beef Industry Board, and I urge you to adopt this amendment.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Would anyone wish to speak to the amendment to LB 583? Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Members, this is the first afternoon session, and it is always a good time to move a bill like this. I am not saying I am against it but I think that in order that I do not be accused later on of stealing \$8 million for a private, nonprofit agency, I would like to have a few things clarified. And would Senator Rogers tell me exactly how these funds are going to be administered, and what, if any, control will we have over them once they have entered into this nonprofit agency?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: Now, Senator, do you mean what control would the state have over these funds, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes.

SENATOR ROGERS: The state would have no control over them.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, thank you. We really have no control now but we do collect them as taxes, is that not correct?

SENATOR ROGERS: Hmm.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Checkoff funds are considered taxes. Well, let me just kind of ramble a little bit.

SENATOR ROGERS: I don't know whether they are called taxes, or not, but, I mean, the state has nothing to do with it. Okay, Senator Haberman says they are taxes. It is very similar. The only thing that I could explain why I took this bill is it operates the same way the Nebraska Pork Board operates. Now there is no reason to answer to the state.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, let me just say this. I have no problem, whatsoever. I have supported every single checkoff program that has come across the board. I have some concern, and I have expressed that concern from time to time, about how vigilantly we debate the expenditure of a few thousand dollars on this