

floor, and about how casually some of those funds are handled by the checkoff boards which we created. I well recall when we created the beef checkoff proposal. Nebraska livestock breeders and feeders organization had a budget of about \$130,000, and I asked Mr. Paul Johnson, then, who is our Executive Director, how much money we would raise under this proposal, and he indicated somewhere about \$8 million. I believe that figure is somewhat accurate. Most of that money does leave the state, and I do not know if it is spent properly or not. There is no way of knowing. I do know that much of it is spent on promotion, and I do know that it is administered by a large board, 150 some people. A board of that size really doesn't I am sure have very many man-to-man or woman-to-woman discussions, and I guess that when I first saw this bill I had some concern about it. I have great respect for the people who are involved at the state level. I think they are well-intentioned. I understand that they feel very strongly that this gives them additional flexibility that they may be able to use the funds in a better manner, lobbying purposes or legal purposes, I suppose, if they so choose. That may be right. I have a question, Senator Johnson or Senator Rogers, would you support this kind of a proposal for all of the rest of the checkoff boards that we have here in the State of Nebraska?

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: If they all operated the way this board is designated to operate and the way the Nebraska Pork Board operates, yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, would you explain again, again I am probably the only person here who doesn't understand it, but would you explain to me exactly how this system operates today. I have gone to some of those beef checkoff board meetings. It is a very enlightening experience. Money is spent in a rather casual manner.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And I guess I am looking at it from the standpoint of where do we go from here, and I know that there are good arguments for what we are doing today. If you would have told me, Loran, look at how much better the cattle prices are today; up in the \$83 fat cattle, and this is all due to the efforts of the checkoff board. Well, maybe, some of it is. I