

am sure it is. On the other hand, I think some of it has to do with less than a hundred million cow herd, which is down substantially from what it was a number of years ago. I just want the body to know, again, I am not saying I am for or against the bill at this time, I want the body at this time to know that we are taking what I believe is about \$8 million of tax revenue, transferring it to a nonprofit group, and if and when the time comes that this group crowds the Douglas County Fair Board off the front pages of the Omaha World-Herald. I at least want it known that I raised the question as to whether or not it was the proper procedure.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you very much.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Hefner is next, followed by Senator Rogers, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support this amendment. This amendment becomes the bill and I believe this is the way to go. I know we heard quite a little testimony at the public hearing that the Agriculture Committee had, but I am in favor of taking this from a state agency to a private entity. I think this is the way to go. I know that it has worked in our pork checkoff deal, and I feel that the beef checkoff is working very well. I feel we need money for the promotion of our beef products, and this is certainly a way to get it. I didn't know it was \$8 million, but I know that is a lot of money. But, Senator Schmit, when we are in competition with so many other food items, we need a lot of money to promote the beef products, and that is what this would do. We all know that Coca-Cola, General Motors, and a lot of the other large companies spend millions of dollars to promote their product. Therefore, I think it is only right that we go ahead and promote the beef products that we have here in Nebraska. I do have a question of Senator Rogers, if he will yield.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Senator Rogers.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Carson Rogers, would some of this money be used for research, too?

SENATOR ROGERS: Yes, I have never served on the beef board but they operate the same way the pork board. They talked