

about...Senator Schmit talked about who is going to control this money. All of these members are elected that serve on this board, are elected by their peer. They can designate money to the research. I am sure that they have given money to the University of Nebraska. Well, in fact, I know they have. I don't have the programs but we have done the same thing with the pork board.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Rogers. Some of this money would be used for research, too, and I think that this is very important. Also, it is very important that we get the right people elected to this board, and I think that the cattlemen have assured us that this will happen. So, hopefully, you will be able to support this amendment and then vote to advance the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. We will now to go Senator Rogers.

SENATOR ROGERS: Just to answer some of the questions of Senator Schmit, they call it tax money now, if you want to. Now it won't be called tax money now under this bill. I can see no difference because the state had nothing to do with it, regardless of whether you called it tax money or checkoff money. It is an elected board and the board is the same as it was before. Basically, all this bill does is take it out from a quasi state operation and makes it a nonprofit corporation. Everything else remains the same today, and then there is provisions in there if they think some of these things should be changed. I mentioned that they set up a committee of three board members, a representative from cattlemen, cattlemen, of the dairy industry and the Farm Bureau, and it takes a majority vote of that committee to take it to the full board if they would like to change the length of terms, or of the districts, or if they want to add new board members.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rogers. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I just want to make this point again. We are taking tax dollars, transferring it to a nonprofit, nongovernment agency, and, admittedly, we have very little control now. It does not mean we could not have some control. I want to ask if anyone knows today how much money is collected