

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rogers, would you respond?

SENATOR ROGERS: Yes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Senator Rogers, what percentage of checkoff funds from Nebraska now go to the federal government, the federal checkoff...the national checkoff board?

SENATOR ROGERS: I don't have those figures, Senator Dierks. I think it is around 75 percent, but I'd have to look that up, and I can get you the figures, but I cannot answer that exactly.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, does this bill in anyway change the current method of checkoff?

SENATOR ROGERS: It changes nothing. The present system that we have now actually will operate with no changes whatsoever. The only thing is it will be a nonprofit organization instead of going through the state, state warrants, they drive state cars, in all these particular entities.

SENATOR DIERKS: So then the \$8 million that Senator Schmit is talking about is \$8 million that belongs to that particular entity today and it will belong to it tomorrow or after the bill is passed, is that right?

SENATOR ROGERS: Right, nothing changes.

SENATOR DIERKS: Okay, then, is there any way that this bill would change the membership of the board so that it might allow for more input by one ag group or another?

SENATOR ROGERS: No, if you've seen in some of the amendment, it changes nothing. The present board stays the same. This was one of the questions that come up, and we had a lot of dialogue with the different groups. What they do now is they have three board members, one representing Nebraska cattlemen, one Nebraska cattlemen, one from the dairy people, one from Farm Bureau. They would sit down if they want to change the bylaws, then with a majority vote, then that would go to the board of directors. But that is something that would happen after the bill is passed, Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Thank you.