

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

SENATOR SCHMIT: Ladies and gentlemen, first of all, let's get something straight. No one on the floor here today can tell you exactly how much money we collect, no one can tell you exactly how much is spent within this state or for what it is spent for, and no one can tell us exactly the dollars that are sent somewhere else, but out of the state. We started off with a 25 cent checkoff. I remember for years I paid a tenth of a cent to the National Livestock and Meat Board that was refundable, if I wanted it back. The checkoff era came along and we began to extract larger and larger amounts of money. I supported those proposals. I still support the checkoff proposals. What I am suggesting to you is this, ladies and gentlemen. That it might well be that when we get into this bloody fight on this floor over the personal tax issue, I am going to ask you, Senator Rogers, if the beef board so chose under this new system, would they be able to hire those six figure attorneys and accountants and actuaries, tax accountants, to come down here and help me and you lobby the urban legislators against the personal property tax? Would they be able to do that?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rogers, would you respond?

SENATOR ROGERS: Senator Schmit, I don't think they can but I know where you are coming from and I wish they would, but I don't think they can under this act, not from the checkoff monies.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You don't think they can, though?

SENATOR ROGERS: Well, I will find out. No, I don't think they can. Most of your commodity boards cannot do lobbying off the checkoff funds. Most of your commodity groups have other funds that you can contribute to voluntarily and they use that for lobbying.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But it has been the history of this organization, the history of agricultural organizations that voluntarily raised funds are very, very few and far between, and very skimpy. We've tried that a few times and we didn't get enough money to wad a shotgun. It was all \$1 bills, and we will get less in this instance. I am going to suggest this, I am going to suggest that the bill is going to move. Obviously, it