

controlled by a very few. I read in the paper the other day where we're concerned about the price of cornflakes. If you think the price of cornflakes is high now, you wait until a few people have control of those cornflakes. Those cornflakes will be \$10 a box instead of \$4 a box. So keep it in mind. The average age of a farmer has grown from 39 to 53 in a short, few years here. Let's do, in this case here, let's do what's best for all of us, not only the farmer but for the person who eats what the farmer grows. Let's keep this in mind. I think we all have what's best for our constituents and for the body as a whole and for all of Nebraska. Let's go with this amendment by Senator Bernard-Stevens and let's try to get that young farmer back down to 40 years old instead of the 53 years old. Let's try to do this. I appreciate it. Thank you.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Mr. Speaker, members, I support the amendment. There's three issues that have been discussed here this afternoon, as I see it, the half versus the three-quarter cent, the process or the intent as we've got it and also what funding at the General Fund level. I would hope that the General Fund level here at this stage would satiate some of the issues that are being raised here and that we do move forward with this. It does put a significant amount of dollars in early. I am much more comfortable at this point than I would have been two or three weeks ago as we start coming down to the home stretch on the funding on the budget. We really won't know perhaps until May when we get into it how this will play out but at least it will be sitting there. It does look more realistic today than it did a few weeks ago. I think it is something that should be satisfactory to many of you in here considering the up-front intent. Hopefully, we can proceed with the checkoff as it is with a good faith effort from agriculture and that the process will be also appropriate for those of you that are concerned about the appropriations oversight into the future terms...into the future terms, yes, terms of this, of this. And so I support the amendment. As I said, I think it's much more realistic now than it probably was a month ago, at least in my mind, and I would urge you to have this advance so that it can be considered in May with all the other A bills.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Schellpeper.