

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 29, 2005 LB 150

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, I would agree with that.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why then are we pushing a piece of legislation now which could fly in the face of a U.S. Supreme Court decision, or which would not even be necessary? What is the hurry?

SENATOR KREMER: Okay, I don't think this will fly in the face of the Supreme Court decision. The problem is, is that it could be like before anything else was being able to get organized or something, we could have two years or so that we would have no money for promotion to open up foreign markets; that there would be a gap. This is to...so that we kind of have a seamless program that could go on that would meet the requirements of what...if the constitution...if they...if the Supreme Court decides it's unconstitutional. So we feel like it's important it's ongoing. If everything goes away and it's start up again from scratch, it would be very difficult and we would lose a lot of...a lot of promotion and research and education.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kremer, you know what the National Cattlemen's Beef Association is, don't you?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, I do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, do they have the contract to make use of these checkoff funds to decide what programs are to be funded and what are the uses to be made of this money?

SENATOR KREMER: You know, I don't think they have an exclusive contract. I think they're used some time, but they are...they are required to keep a fire wall that it could not be used for lobbying, for a lot of things. And I did have the report from the auditors for about five years in a row that said they looked at that and that they were in accord with all the requirements; that it's not money that's spent on their own program. It's not (inaudible).

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. What is the source of funds that keeps that NCBA operational? Aside from the beef checkoff money, what