

on this floor and those of us whose names are on these amendments and on these bills. And I know that the members who have joined with me over the years in support of this program will agree with me on that. So I would hope that if there are any questions you want to ask me on it, I would try to answer them or I would defer to Senator Will or Senator Smith and if I have some time left, Senator Schrock, I would give you that time to open on...to continue with opening on the bill.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schrock, do you want about three minutes of Senator Schmit's time? Go ahead.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I appreciate Senator Schmit's long-time involvement in the ethanol industry. It has meant a lot to the farmer in the State of Nebraska. I would just like to address a few issues here. It seems like there's a little bit of something that everybody can dislike in this bill, but there's also something that everybody can like. I appreciate Senator Warner's protection of the Highway Trust Fund. In theory, I agree with you, Senator Warner. This is probably not proper use of Highway Trust Fund money. We did commit that money last year, however, and we are lessening the Highway Trust Fund's obligation. As a matter of fact, we're eliminating it after the year 1994 and that was a compromise that we struck and I think that was a good compromise. We have agreed to let the Ethanol Authority pick up the flack at the end of 1994 and, Senator Schmit, I agree with you, there is a possibility that we could drain that fund and not have enough money to go to the year 1997. And whether I'm a senator or a farmer at that time, I know I'll be a farmer, I will support a checkoff at that time to reimburse that fund, if need be. We do not know what is going to happen to the ethanol industry down the road. It could very well be that with Clean Air Act coming down the road, that California could use all the ethanol that the State of Nebraska could produce and they would buy it at an unsubsidized price. I think that Chief Industries, if they're having trouble, showing a financial profit at the end of 1994, I think it would be very appropriate for the Legislature to take a look at that time to see if we do need to keep a 20-cent producer credit for them at that time. You might be interested to note the State of Minnesota is now, now has pending legislation that would require all gasoline sold in Minnesota after the year 1994 to be ethanol blended. I would, personally, like to do something like that in the State of Nebraska, but I think it's proper that our consumers have a