

mean long-term. But just a couple of things. First off, I heard Senator Wehrbein talk about, on the ethanol issue, that the gap that we've got is a significant one. And this won't completely close it, but the checkoff idea that he had originally started with on LB 984 is not dead. It's still something we can look at and obviously we'll have to revisit that issue. I heard Senator Ashford talk about the convention center, Civic Center issue. And one of the things I hope out of this is that this isn't a go forward and do Civic Auditorium and be done with it type proposal, because I think that would be money ill spent. Unless it's tied into a convention center and made sense of, as that report indicated, I think we're throwing good money after bad. But it does look like, under the language Senator Ashford has and under the intent he talked about, that we'll think this through a little further before any money is spent, so I appreciated Senator Ashford's comments on that. The thing that ultimately Senator Cromby and others expressed, Senator Bromm I think and others talked about, was the financial picture that emerges from the bill. Keep in mind the fertilizer tax was put on to try and deal with some of the loss of revenue from the sales tax exemption of farm machinery. That loss of revenue is 16 million a year, the fertilizer tax is about half that, 7 or 8 million. Now, that will be sent over to the ethanol issue. So we've lost the revenue from the sales tax on farm machinery. In a way we're losing how we made up part of that by sending this money over to the ethanol issue and that does cause a fiscal impact. Also we're obligating ourselves with some cigarette tax money, a couple of years from now, that could have been used for other types of issues. So we are making some fiscal commitments here. And I think Senator Wickersham in particular talked about we're not making an obligation to continue any future funding whatsoever on the convention center question in Omaha. I see this as the end of the obligation and from there forward, hopefully, it can be merged into a greater local match to accomplish the goals that Senator Ashford has outlined in his Nebraskaplex study. So, all I did was try to raise some issues and concerns. I understand people will vote the way they have to vote. I continue to oppose the bill, but I will withdraw the motion at this time and appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHHEM: Motion is withdrawn. Is there anything else filed to the bill?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Coordsen would move to