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LB 75

Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we need to discuss once again what this bill is about. The purpose of the bill is to run regular gasoline out of the state. Ethanol is an inferior product. It is one which has not gained acceptance by the motoring public. There are rural areas of the state, there are farmers in the state who reject ethanol as a motor fuel. Those who know it best reject it. Regular is the overwhelming choice of consumers who drive automobiles. The investors, the producers, the purveyors of ethanol are business people. Their goal is the goal of all business people is to make as much profit on their product as they possibly can. They would also like to eliminate competition. This bill is designed to make the consumer the victim of investors, producers, and purveyors of ethanol. All of them realize they are pushing an inferior product. They cannot justify it on its merit so they want the state to come in, run the competition, which is regular gasoline, off the market and hope that people will be compelled thereby to buy ethanol. The only other alternative would be premium which we know is going to be at a much higher cost than ethanol. If this were a good product, we wouldn't have to hear the phony arguments such as help the farmers. They're not going to help the corn grower. Whatever the price of ethanol is is not going to raise the price per bushel that a farmer gets for his or her corn. It is not one of those items that the government should step in and use its power to compel people to utilize that item. We're being asked to pervert the power of the state. We're asking...we're being asked to destroy the principles of the marketplace. Let those market forces come into play and the product which is desired by the public will remain there. Let ethanol scramble for its share of the market in the marketplace, not by trying to pervert the power of the government to make it drive the competition out of the market and thereby compel people to buy an inferior product. This talk of buying ethanol to be loyal to Nebraska is crazy. This is a bill designed to help a few investors and purveyors and producers of ethanol. That's what it's for. I say again to my good friend, Senator Connealy, and his band of followers, corn is to be eaten. You can eat it off the cob, you can eat it out of the can. You can eat it as corn pones, corn fritters. You