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FLOOR DEBATE

April 9, 2001            LB 75

Is there oil fields in Germany that we're protecting?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Not to my knowledge.

SENATOR HILGERT: Okay. Do you have any communication with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld that will indicate that if we pass LB 75 that our defense commitments in the Middle East will reduce?

SENATOR CUNNINGHAM: Well, when I had him over to dinner the other night, I was joking there, no, I don't.

SENATOR HILGERT: Well, I don't think it's funny because, you know, we deployed 652,000 troops to the Middle East in Desert Storm. And to make this idea that that was only to defend our oil fields I think is insulting to Nebraska's veterans, to this country's veterans. And of all the arguments that I've heard for LB 75, frankly, that is the most ridiculous one I've heard, that if somehow we pass LB 75 that our defense commitments in the Middle East will somehow be reduced. Frankly, I find that somewhat offensive. I talked about this when you mentioned that earlier, but I'm not going to let the statement go unchallenged. It really is offensive. I do think that whether we pass LB 75, whether Nebraska disappears as a state, our defense commitments in the Middle East will not be affected let alone the passage of one bill in this Chamber. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. We are discussing the motion to bracket LB 75. Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: I rise in opposition to the bracket motion. I know Senator Baker has been opposed to the bill since the beginning. He wants to quit debate. That's appropriate for his position. This is a bill that would increase the consumption of ethanol in Nebraska. It is a bill that won't cost the state money. It will improve the air, improve our gas delivery system in Nebraska. Retailers don't want to be told what to do. They don't want to be told that the pool of gasoline will be broadened to include another product that we believe would be a superior product, a product that we would allow consumers to have more choices. Senator Smith brought up that retailers