

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

May 15, 2001

LB 329, 435, 536, 542, 543, 640A

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Mr. Clerk, items for the record?

CLERK: Thank you, Mr. President. Items to be read include the Appropriations Committee report with respect to their recommendations on the Governor's line-item vetoes in LB 542 and LB 543. I have notice of confirmation hearing by Natural Resources. And amendments to be printed: Senator Preister, LB 329; Senator Wehrbein, LB 536; Senator Jensen, LB 640A; Senator Beutler, LB 435. That's all that I had, Mr. President. Thank you. (Legislative Journal pages 2048-2051.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Further debate on the motion to refer LB 536 to committee? Senator Vrtiska, followed by Senators Janssen, and Schimek.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. I just wanted to comment. I don't know where Senator Baker went but it doesn't make any difference, I guess. He was talking about plant number three. Now, as most of you know, I am as selfish as anybody in this...in this body. I've been accused of bringing things to my district and I've tried to do that, although some of my constituents say, what have you done for me lately? However, it was my...I signed on the bill for purposes as many others did and that was the idea of perhaps some day locating a ethanol plant in my district, at least in the southeast part of Nebraska. I say that because, as has been demonstrated here all during this debate, that it creates jobs and it provides an outlet for a product that production agriculture produces, and that's namely corn. So it's important to the areas of the state where corn is produced to have that outlet to, in fact, hopefully increase the price so that agriculture can survive. All of us know that agriculture is on hard times, has not been doing that well, and anything that can come along that will in fact increase the income for those in production agriculture is a benefit. And, as a state senator, as the rest of the senators around here who have been discussing this this afternoon, their interests and mine are the same, and that is to provide economic development for my area as well as the rest of the state. Senator Baker mentioned that he had a