

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

May 15, 2001

LB 536

guess what? There is going to be one, and so that's where we are headed. And so if we, as individuals, are going to survive, we have...we're doing the same thing, and that means produce. Then we have to find a market for that production so we can lower our cost of production as compared to the world, whether it's Argentina or Brazil or wherever. I mean we're competing against 100 dollar an acre land in Brazil against our 2,000 dollar plus. So we have no choice but to promote ethanol is my point. It provides another market. It provides another market for our full-bore production so we can lower our cost of producing corn and we have, even at a lost, you produce more because you lose less. Now that's the kind of world we're operating in and you've got your head and you've used the head in the sand attitude many times, but we have our heads in the sand unless we maximize our production to lower our cost per unit to where we may operate on a nickel. And if that doesn't work, then you get bigger...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: ...machinery. And if then if that doesn't work, you hire less people. And if that doesn't work, I don't know what you do. But that's where we are at, and that's why we're decimating Nebraska's population because we are getting fewer and fewer. But a way we're going to compete in the world, there is no other way, to lower our cost of production. So we need ethanol plants and we need value-added plants, somehow to provide that cost of production so that we can make a little money even with a dollar and a half corn, and maybe we're going to make it on our value-added side because that's the way all industry is going. Wal-Mart doesn't care if we survive, where they buy their products, and I could give you examples in the meat industry and every thing else. The only answer we have is to lower our cost of production and that means we maximize production by and large. Now that's, an economist, such as Dr. Raikes, will probably disagree with the maximizing production. I think we ought to optimize production. That is probably a better term. And with that, that's enough.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Raikes, on the motion to reconsider.