

May 9, 1979

LB 121

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner, do you wish to...
Senator Hefner and then Senator Keyes and then Senator
Warner and Senator Pirsch. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I
rise in support of trying to raise LB 121 from committee.
I feel that we need to get some pilot plants going. We
have had study after study and here we are. After eight
years we still do not have any plants in Nebraska produc-
ing alcohol. A lot of the people said, well it isn't
feasible. If it was feasible private industry would do it
but as the price of gasoline keeps rising and rising I
believe that producing alcohol and in turn, producing
gasohol, blend it with gasoline, that it would become
feasible. I think we need to encourage more plants and
by building say, a plant that would produce a million
gallons a year there would be less freight to contend with.
If alcohol is blended in the locality that is going to be
sold well I am sure it would be feasible. Also if we build
us small plants and use corn, the byproduct is certainly a
good feed and, therefore, we would be able to use it without
drying it. Thus, it would save a lot of energy. Here in
Nebraska we have many stations starting to sell gasohol and
it is being well accepted throughout the community but the
problem is that we have to haul this alcohol from eastern
Iowa, therefore, adding freight charges of between five, six
or seven cents a gallon. So it increases the price of
gasohol. By having three or four or five pilot plants in
Nebraska we would thus be producing it cheaper than we could
haul it from our nearest source which is eastern Iowa. If
this bill is advanced directly from committee I would be
willing to amend it to two plants. I believe as the bill
states now it would be five plants at a half a million dollars
each. I would be willing to amend that down to two plants
which would have a fiscal impact of a million dollars and
thus, we would be getting started and this would help
alleviate part of the energy shortage which we are now
facing. I urge you to support bringing this out of com-
mittee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, certainly I would support
bringing this out of committee but I do have one question
of Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, you made a statement
that Governor Thone was willing to put \$1,000,000 in his
budget. Has he got the \$1,000,000 there?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I believe he does, Senator Keyes, yes.
I was going to call him Mr. President.