

May 14, 1979

LB 585

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, then Senator Hefner and then Senator Warner.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I, too, rise in opposition to Senator Keyes' amendment. I don't know whether Senator Keyes realizes this or not but the amount of monies that this agency is getting at the present time is about a hundred and fifty some thousand or a hundred and forty some thousand and I did some checking into that and the amount of dollars of that \$150,000 that they actually expend for research in the alcohol development is \$18,000. So if we increase that to \$1,000,000 we are going to be raising it a little over six times that amount which means they are going to have a \$128,000 out of that \$1,000,000 that will be going into research and I don't think that is exactly what this amendment is attempting to do. Secondly, there is another reason that I oppose it. As Senator Cullan indicated, the experts aren't quite sure as to the value of gasohol but there is one major flaw in this entire program as I view it. This body spends a lot of time trying to come up with some way to control the water usage in this state. We are contemplating using tax dollars and we are using tax dollars to help control that water usage. Now on the other hand we are going to use tax dollars to create a new market for a product that uses that water. Now many people are going to tell you that this is going to use up the surpluses. Well I am a farmer and I come from a farm country and I know if there is a market for something those people out there are going to produce for it and it is not going to use up a surplus. It is simply going to be using up more of that water that we are trying to figure out how to control now and if it makes any sense to anybody in this body to use tax dollars on one hand to control water and then use tax dollars on the other hand to use more of it then I wish somebody would explain it to me. If gasohol is such a great thing then why isn't private industry building those plants right today? I think when it becomes economically feasible, when it becomes feasible energy wise, I firmly believe that private industry will build them. To get the government involved in things that private industry should be doing is a terrible shame. I can't think of one instance where government funds have been put in programs where private funds should have been used that became successful and I think this is another instance that we are starting down and I would certainly oppose this amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Merz.