

March 5, 1980

LB 637

SENATOR REUTZEL: No, just in closing I would just repeat that they are technical in nature to remove the constitutional prohibition to the bill, LB 571, we passed last year, and I would move the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right, the motion now is to adopt the committee amendments as amended. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? We are voting on adopting the committee amendments now on LB 637. Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays on adopting the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The committee amendment....the motion carries. The committee amendments are adopted as amended. We are now ready for the bill. The Chair recognizes Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. President, this is probably one of the important bills of this session to help the economy of the State of Nebraska. We have had a lot of frustrations to get alcohol plants built and this is our chance to let the people speak to get this on the ballot and to make it constitutional that we will guarantee the bonds that are issued by municipalities and counties to private industry to build alcohol plants and when we see a certain amount of surplus grain that is available for this alcohol production and the depressed price because of the moratorium on the embargo that was imposed, we can do something about it with this constitutional amendment to let the people tell us if they want us to do this and it will have a lot of safeguards. It will take thirty votes of the Legislature to enact enabling legislation for this purpose the next session. As you will see in the committee report, there was much support and no opposition for this constitutional amendment. Those that support it was Alfred Maronde from the Farmers Union of Nebraska; Mr. Ralph O'Connor, he is the Chairman of the Agriculture Production Industrial and Utilization Committee; Mr. Todd Sneller, Administrator of Agriculture Products Industrial Utilization Committee; Mr. Holly Hodge, he is the President of the National Gasohol Committee; and former Senator Les Robinson. They all supported this bill. I think we should give the people a chance to see if we should try to make the United States more self-reliant by producing our own fuel. I think a lot of our inflation is caused by the increase in the crude oil that we are importing and the balance of payment is staggering. We should do something about this problem by producing some of