

the Haberman amendment. I'd just like to make one more comment, if I have some time, and that is if I understood Senator Haberman right, he said that there was not a productive plant in Nebraska. The Hastings plant is very productive and very efficient, in fact operated at 122 percent of capacity last year. It's almost unheard of, I believe, for a plant to do that.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired. Thank you. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Well, Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Schmit, in his opening remarks, laid a smoke screen down, in my opinion, and he said due to the new meat packing plant, due to the increase in livestock that we're going to need and we're going to want ethanol plants to use the by-product. So I would say to Senator Schmit, at the present time is there under consideration the building of ethanol plants with the check-off funds?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Yes or no?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Haberman, the Ethanol Authority is in existence. They will accept any application that is realistic. They have rejected some which were not, and we would encourage them, and I'm sure you would join me in encouraging them to do so. The fact that...

SENATOR HABERMAN: All right, Senator Schmit. If...What I meant by smoke screen is that he brought up an issue that doesn't enter into this issue, because the original intent of the check-off, there hadn't been any plants built. Now if there was a plant built at Lexington, and if they were going to use the spill-off from the cattle, there would be enough corn in that area, and the by-product would be there. So Nebraska grain has nothing to do with that. So they said, how can we separate the grain? Well, now let's say, for example, where are we going to build an ethanol plant, we're going to build it in the Imperial area, we have enough grain. Senator Smith says she has enough corn. We go up in northeast Nebraska, they have enough corn. You go round in Lincoln, they have an ethanol plant, so they must have enough corn. So I really don't buy the fact that they're going to ship in a car load of wheat or a car load of