

for it. We just sold out one of the largest manufacturers and specialties in Nebraska and his equipment, his equipment went for a song. They gave it away at the auction due to transportation, due to people not wanting it and due to new equipment on the...to buy. So that's what this amendment does. Now this, to me, is a serious amendment. And I don't see why, when we go into an adventure, we have to use our tax dollars to buy equipment, if we're buying and helping build and going to expand the brick and mortar. That's what the amendment does. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, an amendment on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Yes, Mr. President. Senator Schmit would move to amend the Haberman amendment. The amendment is found on page 999.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, my amendment reinserts the words "acquisition of equipment". I believe it is important that we have those words in the bill. I don't think it's possible, Senator Haberman, to build a plant without having it equipped with a certain amount of equipment. It's all one and the same. I think that you could possibly, if you wanted to be bureaucratic about it, say well, okay the Ethanol Authority will provide for the footings and we'll provide for the concrete and we'll provide for the bricks. But then the rest of the equipment must be purchased and supplied by the individual whose building the plant. I don't think it's necessary. We are participating, if we ever do, in an entire activity. And I just want to suggest that, for example, there have been individuals who have come to me recently who told about the fact that they can't acquire equipment from plants that have gone bankrupt, plants that were overdesigned, underdesigned, illdesigned, et cetera. If, in fact, the Ethanol Authority decides that that is a good investment then I think that's the way it ought to be done. I think that the fact that the Ethanol Authority is proceeding with caution indicates that they're not going to be foolish about these investments. I think that we can find many, many areas if we want to be critical of expenditures of taxpayer dollars. But I think that it's sort of unusual that we find someone who is critical because this authority has not expended hardly any taxpayer dollars thus far, but have been most