

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But if they cannot and will not function in this instance, then I am willing to go back to the Appropriations Committee and I guess sit down with them and see if, in fact, the existing appropriation is in order, and I would entertain, perhaps, the idea that if the money is not going to be used for the benefit of all of the people of the State of Nebraska that we come back to the deficit appropriation bill, which will be read later on, and remove the balance of the money. I am not bluffing. I am not threatening. I am just saying that I think this Legislature has gone on record many times on behalf of that industry. They have gone on record in behalf of the people of the State of Nebraska, and I think that we are still in concurrence with that. We will probably be talking about this more later on, and if there is some good reason for making a larger appropriation than what the Appropriation Committee has recommended, I will take a look at it. But at this time, I just want to reemphasize again that if the Ethanol Authority decides not to move...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...or they are afraid to move, then I am going to sit down with Senator Warner and the Appropriations Committee and decide what course of action to follow next, and I will be glad to take some advice there. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Smith, did you have a question?

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Yes, I have a number of questions, and I don't know if it is appropriate for me right now, since we are discussing the Ethanol Authority, to ask Senator Schmit a couple of questions on what he has just announced to us. Would that be appropriate, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Would you respond?

SENATOR SCHMIT: I will answer, Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Schmit, first of all I would like to ask, is your bid, you said, I think you put it on, what, six or seven months ago on the ethanol plant in Hastings?