

Millard with their teachers. Would you people please stand and be welcomed. Thank you. We're glad you could spend a little time with us. Senator Johnson, only Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: We can proceed.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Proceed. Members, take your seats for a roll call vote on the adoption of the Johnson amendment to LB 813. Mr. Clerk, would you please proceed.

CLERK: (Roll call vote read. See pages 2009-10 of the Legislative Journal.) 26 ayes, 14 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The amendment is adopted. The call is raised. The next order of business.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senators Johnson and Baack. Senator, this is AM1575.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members, this amendment does not spend state tax dollars. This amendment puts back in the money that was basically taken away from the Ethanol Board. They have approximately \$17 million that they have generated through contributions by the checkoff that we had, the ethanol checkoff that came from corn, sorghum and wheat growers across the state. There has been some turmoil, that's putting it mildly, within the board over how to spend these funds. The Appropriations Committee has recommended to only allow them to use about a million and a half of those \$17 million. This puts all the money back into the program to let the board decide how to spend the money and in what areas. Needless to say, there is a great deal of interest in trying to develop the ethanol industry in our state. That was the purpose of the ethanol bill that we passed, LB 1230, some years ago, and this money is designed to try and enhance or to entice companies to either build plants in the state or to help us keep the Hastings plant in operation which is, of course, in receivership at this particular point, based upon their parent company. There are, I believe, up to 20 bids that have been placed before the Ethanol Board at this time and they are considering many of those, and without having the funds available to potentially make decisions on some of these offers or bids, it's going to be difficult for