

proposals. I didn't feel, at that time, and I have a difficult time feeling at this time that ground up installations in the United States don't hold a great deal of promise, but the fact remains that the body did pass the bill. The checkoff was created. The funds were accumulated. And my understanding that with the interest that has been accruing to this over the last several years that we're talking about well in excess of \$17 million in the fund now. We have a viable plant in Nebraska at Hastings that was caught up in the savings and loans debacle that spread nationwide and as put up for bids last week, or the bids were taken ending last week. There is a good potential in that particular plant. There is a potential that if some of the names in the ethanol industry, some of the major companies that bid on that, may well be interested in expanding that plant. I think that it would be wise for us this morning, since we're talking about a cash-funded agency where the Appropriations Committee, rather than appropriating money, authorizes the expenditure of Cash Funds, that we place ourselves in a position this morning that should those circumstances come into being, and I have no knowledge as to who the successful bidder might be or who the...what their particular future plans might be, that we give the Ethanol Development Authority the maximum amount of flexibility that we can for the next fiscal year, that they might be able to participate in grants or loans for whoever the successful bidder is. We are not...we're treading water, I think, with the Ethanol Board and not really making any great progress. I would lend myself, I think, to the side that if we're not able to do something that's demonstratively good for Nebraska, for the consumption of our agriculture products, for pollution control via the use of ethanol, that we might well look in the future of refunding the money...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR COORDSEN: ...totally to the people that contributed and disbanding the thing. Earlier this session we passed legislation that would enable the Ethanol Development Board to look at other investments that touch upon this area that would encourage the increased usage of agriculture products in industrial uses. I think they need the flexibility that will be given them by this amendment. Doesn't mean that they must spend the money but it will allow them to spend the money and, if they have that authority, make commitments, they won't have to come back for a deficit appropriation from the '90-91 appropriation which is basically the rest of the money in their funds. So the