

May 5, 1989

LB 813

hearing this afternoon will be at one o'clock in Room 1117, Government Committee for their public hearing at one o'clock this afternoon, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The call is raised.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please.

CLERK: Senator, this is your amendment...ethanol amendment, I believe, Senator. (Schmit amendment appears on page 2108 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, is this AM1687?

CLERK: Yes, Sir.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I know that the body is very uneasy and would like to move along and so I'm going to briefly explain this amendment and it was roughly drafted by myself, needs to be cleaned up and I am in the process of doing that, but I want to give you the intent of the amendment, what we are trying to do, what I would like to do and then I will withdraw the amendment and if there is a sufficient interest in the amendment, I will offer it again upon Select File. I indicated to this body earlier that I was concerned with the appropriated funds and the unappropriated funds that are now presently residing with the Ethanol Authority, some 17 million, plus dollars. Those funds, as you know, were collected under authorization of this Legislature for the purpose of encouraging the construction of ethanol plants. There has been some discussion and some concern as to the lack of extreme amount of activity in this area and there have been some people who have wondered what has been happening with that money. Very frankly, the Ethanol Authority, very properly, did not rush out and try to spend the money indiscriminately. There have been a number of applications for the money and they have reviewed them very carefully. At the present time there is for sale, a plant at Hastings, Nebraska. It is an operating plant and has operated successfully for several years. As you know, I indicated that I thought the Ethanol Authority could and should buy that plant and hold it for the benefit of the individuals who contributed the money to the Ethanol Authority Fund. The Ethanol Authority