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LB 813

correct?

SENATOR BAACK: Yes. My understanding is that they cannot directly purchase a plant with those monies.

SENATOR MOORE: Cannot directly purchase a plant. Now, my good friend and seat mate, Senator Schmit, I'd like to ask him that question, if he concurs with your opinion on that.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, would you respond.

SENATOR MOORE: And don't use all of my time, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Present language calls for the ethanol authority to take an equity position...

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, (gavel). We can't hear very well. Please hold it down. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR MOORE: Could you say that again.

SENATOR SCHMIT: The present language of the statute does allow the ethanol authority to take an equity position, any plant. In fact they have already done so with the American Eagle plant at Eagle, Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator Moore, continue.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, you know, part of...We've got a variety of phone calls, and obviously myself, representing a rural district and a corn grower myself, have got a variety of phone calls inquiring about my particular position on this bill. It's a very frustrating one because Senator Johnson and Senator Baack is correct, this is the farmer...this isn't just free money, this was checkoff money that we collected. But oftentimes members of this Legislature, and particularly members of the Appropriations Committee, we're often criticized for treating cash funds lightly. It's one of those things that cash funds are taxpayer dollars in a different form and we should treat them with the same respect we show General Fund dollars. Now the reason myself, I think, the committee on this particular...you know, there is a lot of questions on how this money is going to be spent. Instead of just rolling that \$17 million over into the cash fund of this agency, I, myself, believe it may be right to roll a portion of it over, to wait