

industry. My institutional knowledge of, or personal knowledge of this issue goes back some eight years. And I have a great deal of sympathy for the problems that the Ethanol Development Authority Board has in trying to find a viable use for the money. One of the problems, and I do, by the way, support this amendment, because I believe in boards being given the...if they're giving the authority to operate, they should be given the authority to use the monies that are in...under their particular authority. I would have supported an amendment for the total amount as far as that goes. But in the field of ethanol it's a very, very difficult field to find viable investment, possibilities that will return to the people in Nebraska who contributed to this fund, which includes myself, a number of the members of the body who are actively engaged in farming, and those of you who happen to own farm ground that is on a cost...or on a crop-share type of rental arrangement certainly have contributed to this, along with...in excess of 50,000 other people. There's been a great deal in print about the controversy that has erupted between opposing factions on the Development Authority Board. I don't view that very negatively. And I know not all of the members but most of the members, and I think that that controversy shouldn't really be part of this discussion today, because that, I feel, is the result of a serious dedication to the principles of the operation of the board and how the monies that have been entrusted to their care should be used. We, earlier in this session, passed a bill that expands the possibilities for investment for the Ethanol Development Authority, and I think this was a positive step in the right direction. As Senator Johnson alluded to, I am of the school of thought that if, in several more years, that there are no good investment possibilities that are sound uses of this money, then we should seriously consider saying to the board, we've given you a good chance, we've given the farmers of Nebraska a chance to look at new ideas, if there are no opportunities presented, let's return the money to them. But that is not the issue today. The issue today before us is to expand the spending authority from cash funds of the Ethanol Development Board. I think that they are conscientious. I think that those funds will be invested wisely and not willy-nilly on pie-in-the-sky projects, which is the reason they are still in there. I don't think they view themselves as simply an investment board to try to husband that money and watch it grow and collect the per diem and go home and say they've done a good job. I think they're serious. I believe that there may be potential on the near term that will