

to do that which we think is in the best interest of Nebraska farmers. One of the members of the ethanol authority has told me, we may well, as an authority, want some advice and some guidance from the Legislature. I think we ought to consider that seriously. I think under those conditions if, in fact, we can comply with the statutory requirements, then I would hope that we can adopt an amendment today yet that would allow us to proceed in that direction. And, as we proceed down that road, know whether or not we want to appropriate these funds for this purpose. I want to say one more thing. Until July 1st, the full 17.8 million is still available. So, in effect, if they wanted to fund this program the ethanol authority could do it from the funds that are available. If they don't fund it by July 1st, then the question remains, as Senator Warner says, how urgent it is, because if it is not decided before that time, apparently it will not be necessary to do anything, at least in this particular instance. We do not have a lot of time, ladies and gentlemen, we do not have many such opportunities. This is the first time in 21 years that I can stand here and say that we collected some money from an individual, and we are in the process of reinvesting that money in a manner which will return dividends many times over. I would hope that you would all consider this carefully and decide whether or not...

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...you are willing to try to amend the statutes to remove any doubt as to whether or not the ethanol authority can make that investment, make the grant, or whatever you want to call it, necessary for the farmers to participate in the ownership and operation of that plant. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Crosby, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had several questions, some of them have been answered by now. I still have one. I'm going to yield my time to Senator Haberman and maybe he can explain to me or find out what exactly it is they want to do with the \$10 million right now. Okay, Senator Haberman, you can have the rest of my time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Haberman, you have almost five minutes.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the body, we have just heard some remarks from Senator Schmit that says six or