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based strictly upon the fact that we now have 8 members of the 11 members of the Ethanol Authority who have less than one year's experience. But these members are being required to vote upon the expenditure or the administration, at least, of \$18 million. That money is a considerable source of encouragement for the development of the ethanol industry in this state, if it is handled right. It is taxpayer money. I want to emphasize that very heavily, and I am most concerned that those taxpayer dollars be spent wisely. I promise and I pledge that I'll work very closely with the Ethanol Authority, but I just want to point out that it is possible for that money not to be spent wisely, not because of any intent or any malfeasance or misfeasance, but simply because of lack of experience. I recognize that we do not have the right, nor should we, to tell the Governor who the appointees should be. The Governor has chosen very fine individuals. My only question, my only hesitation in voting for the support of these three individuals is because that places the preponderance of members of the authority with very little experience. But the committee voted that they be recommended to you for approval, and on the basis of personal qualifications, I cannot argue with that. I will not vote on this appointment, but I recommend that we now vote for them and that there be a record vote.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I think Senator Schmit has covered most of the concerns that he has about the Ethanol Authority. I guess the suggestion that I would make is while we're concerned about the authority and its role and mission, I guess these people that we are about to confirm, or hopefully will confirm, should not be the focus of a concern we have with the authority itself. It's much like the Mr. Thorson appointment. We had great concerns with the compact and many of the problems the compact has provided to Nebraska. But Mr. Thorson proved to be a qualified individual to represent us. Well, I think the same situation applies here. We have four individuals all coming from different walks of life who are interested in the welfare, and I think in the well-being of the ethanol industry. And I think that they have the qualifications, hopefully, to wisely spend the money. But if we want to make significant alterations in the Ethanol Authority, itself, then we should attack that problem at that source, rather than taking it out on these people. As I told a reporter earlier that these appointments seem to be the lightning rod of