

March 19, 1990

Development Coalition joined with others, apparently, in an attempt to put on a fund raiser for a candidate for Congress. I guess that's all right. But I do not know if the Ethanol Authority ought to be making contributions to that kind of an entity. I know also that they plan to hire an environmental consultant. Now this Legislature, for years, has been very, very touchy, much more so than I have, about checkoff funds being spent for lobbying purposes. I, very frankly, and Senator Coordsen and I discussed this a little bit, we'd probably be better off if we took the entire \$18 million and spent it for lobbying in certain areas of the Congress. But the facts are that it's my understanding that the Ethanol Authority has now voted to spend \$50,000 to hire a friend of mine, Mr. Bill Holmberg, who is a very decent guy. He came to Washington, I believe, during the Carter administration and worked on energy matters. I just spoke with him this morning. Hasn't received any money yet, but I think they've hired him. I believe he's been hired, or has been suggested he be hired. He's met one member of the board and, of course, he knows the administrator of the Ethanol Authority. It would seem to me that the authority ought to be a little more inquisitive about the people they hire, if they're going to pay them \$50,000 or \$5,000. I'm not saying that it is not a necessary expenditure or desirable expenditure. But it just seems to me like I know how tough it is to get \$50,000 jarred loose on the floor here...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for an expenditure. I don't know what would happen, I understand that there is going to be some work done at Mead with ethanol, it might be that the Ethanol Authority could be called upon to help fund some project at Mead. I just want to say again I think it is important that the record be clear that I believe that continuity is important in the expenditure of taxpayer funds, and that personal qualifications are important, but a record of historical activity is also important. I do not find anything personally wrong with any of these appointees, they're all fine people, I'm sure they'll all work diligently to bring about the utilization of ethanol in Nebraska and to enhance the ethanol industry. I hope I can work with them. Mr. President, I ask for a record vote.

PRESIDENT: Record vote has been requested. At this time we're voting on the three members of the Gasohol Committee, Mr. Buffett, Ms. Jensen, and Mr. Kral. All those in favor will