

that at this time problems have been caused by the use of methanol blends. If you will check the handbook in your automobile, you will find that virtually all of them will refer to the fact that they can use ethanol blended fuels, but they cannot use methanol blended fuels. What is even more important, ladies and gentlemen, is that there is no methanol-based production in Nebraska. You make methanol out of natural gas. You make methanol out of coal. You do not make methanol from agricultural products. Every state in the Union has its own drum to beat, so to speak. We, in Nebraska, are producers of commodities. That is the business of this state. It is a multibillion dollar business. A billion bushels of commodities are produced in this state annually, and it is a substantial business. We are trying to encourage an industry that will utilize a part of that production, a part of that capacity to produce. We need to do more in that area. We need to be the leaders of this area, not the followers. We need to be the head of the cat, not the tail and, ladies and gentlemen, we have been there. We have brought the United States of American kicking and screaming, against their objections, into the business of cleaner petroleum fuels. When I introduced 771, 776 in 1971, I would like to have it here today to read the preamble. I said because there would one day be unleaded gasoline, we can increase the octane of gasoline by the use of ethanol blends and we can provide a better, cleaner product. Ladies and gentlemen, that was a long time before there was ever any indication that there would be a shortage of gasoline and that there would be unleaded gasoline, that there would be a major concern with clean air. But in 1971, this Legislature started down the road toward a program today which is accepted by all parts of the United States. We have been in the forefront. Why today should we knuckle under, bow down, and scrape and kiss the boots of the petroleum industry who have been our opponent these past 35 years? They have succeeded, they succeeded in the twenties, they succeeded in the thirties, they succeeded in the forties. They were able to close down a 90,000 gallon per day ethanol plant in Omaha, Nebraska in the forties and sell it for junk...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...because they had the political muscle to do so. They didn't want the competition, ladies and gentlemen. Today they are doing the same thing to you now based upon technicalities which I can't explain, shucks no. I make no bones about that. But, ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you