

that point.

ASSISTANT CLERK: In that case, Mr. President, Senators Smith and Schrock would move to amend the committee amendments. This is AM1206.

SENATOR WARNER PRESIDING

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, we have an amendment that's being passed around right now. It's as hot off the press as it could be because I had to run out into the rotunda to get it. And we're having copies...they've just been made and you will receive a copy on your desk. What it amounts to is you have had the explanation of the amendments to the...the committee amendments to the bill itself explained to you. What I would like to do is refresh your memory just a little bit about a bill that was passed last year, LB 1124, which was Senator Schmit's bill. It was my priority bill and what it did was deal with production credit. And you also have a map on your desk of the United States and you see there are numbers dated from March, 1991 that show like 30, 40, 20-2, and things like that. What this shows..and if any of you remember, I passed a map similar to this out last year when we passed LB 1124 and I convinced you on the floor that it was important that we allow the production credits to the producers of ethanol in this state, that's the plants, in other words, the ones that are existing as well as the ones that are coming on line that are being built right now. And it would place them on a level playing field or at least a more level playing field with other states in the nation who are presently providing the production credit to their producers. What had happened was that Nebraska did not have a production credit and even though we are producing ethanol in Nebraska much of the ethanol that was in the state was being brought in because it was cheaper to produce it outside the state than it was right here. So we couldn't compete with the production of ethanol in Nebraska for the benefit of Nebraskans and for the cornrowers, in particular, along with other grain growers. So we passed the law last year, LB 1124, which provided for a production credit through 1997. One year later we're coming back, we're striking that provision. We're lowering the production credit after we just, as a body, said that we're going to give this to you, producer. Now we're saying, no, we take that back this year, we changed our minds,