

my question to you is this. Suppose, at that time, that the lobbying forces in the Legislature are such that we do not...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...succeed, where does that leave us insofar as unfulfilled commitments? I raise those questions not because I'm trying to sandbag Senator Smith's amendment but because I want to point out to you what could happen in the future. I will speak again later on.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Smith, would you like to discuss your amendment further?

SENATOR SMITH: Mr. Speaker, are there other lights on?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, there are.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, what I would just like to do at this point in time is add a few statements for information for the members of the body. And I think that I do appreciate the fact that those people that have spoken in support have said what they have said because I think they made some very valid points, one dealing with the policy of the state regarding establishing some kind of policy, in this case, for this fledgling industry and then one year later saying, no, we're not going to do that now. Actually, the ethanol industry is a fledgling industry in Nebraska but it's a very important industry to the future of the State of Nebraska through the fact that it is based on the economy of Nebraska, it deals with what we've been told to do for years and we talk about the economy and how are we...where are going to go in the future with the economy. It deals with diversification of the use of the traditional agricultural products that we have in the state. It's going to benefit everyone in Nebraska, the grain grower, the producer and the citizenry as far as the economy is concerned. And I guess, in going back, I would like to just comment a little bit on some of the things that have been stated here also. I think that Senator Schmit has some concerns about the contract and about utilizing the production credit and so on in the contract and I can tell you that I have some information provided to me by Roger Burken who is the plant manager, who just has become the plant manager as of the beginning of this year, a little before the beginning of the year. And these are a few of the facts that he's told me about the Hastings ethanol plant. The plant