

of mine, been a friend of mine for many years. He's an excellent businessman and he's an entrepreneur extraordinary and I do not want to do anything that would jeopardize the Hastings plant. On the other hand, these are tax dollars collected, some of them involuntarily on behalf of all the grain producers of the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And so, therefore, you cannot just casually give away this kind of money without having an excellent reason for it. I hope I can speak again, thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Smith, do you wish to discuss your amendment further?

SENATOR SMITH: How many other lights do we have?

SPEAKER BAACK: Just one other one, Senator Schmit's light is back on.

SENATOR SMITH: Well, let's let him speak, then I'll close. I'll give him my time.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Smith, that gives me 10 minutes. I just want to say this. Again, there is no acrimony between myself and Senator Smith and Senator Schrock. We are, I think, basically in agreement. We want to do that which is correct, but by acting in this manner we want to be sure that we have not set a policy which we are going to find it difficult to live with in future years. Senator Warner, very rightly, referred to the Highway Trust Funds. We know that there is only so much water in the bucket and you can only dip the dipper in so many times and if you take it out for one purpose, it is not available for another. Senator Warner also said he would have no problem voting to extend the checkoff and I would not either providing that we have done something constructive. Now the facts are these. The Hastings was built without the ethanol fund, it was built without the ethanol fund. Number two, the production which we are now subsidizing at Hastings was in place without the ethanol fund contribution. We added that as a kind of sugar coating on the candy when we did this a year ago which means that we did something to enhance the