

do you wish to close?

SENATOR SMITH: Yes, please. Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would just remind you that what we're doing here is actually lowering what we did, what we set as policy in a piece of legislation last year. What we're doing in this amendment is saying that rather than providing the 20-cent production credit through 1997, it would be provided at the 20-cent level through 1994. After 1994, it would be lowered to 10 cents production credit through 1997 and in 1994 eliminate the 10 cents share which the Highway Trust Fund is now providing and it would also sunset the two-cent provision, rather than being the year 2000, down to the year 1997 in December. And I would just like to make a few comments about some of the things that were said here. Both Senator Warner and Senator Schmit have made some good points regarding future funding and so on and the concerns that they have. And I'm really glad to hear Senator Warner commit himself as a corn grower and I hope that other corn growers in the state would feel the same way about reinstating the checkoff if that is shown to be needed in a few years time in order to continue the producers' credit because it's beneficial to them in order to do that, I feel. I have something that I would just like to say kind of in closing which I think is kind of cute. In my district, I have a little town called Prosser. I don't know how many of you have ever been there, but a few years back when you drove by on the highway past that little town there was a big sign out on the highway that said, Visit Tom's Place, the only place in town, and when you went downtown in Prosser it literally was the only place in town. Well, Tom's Place isn't there anymore. And what I guess I want to say to you is, let's not jeopardize the only existing ethanol plant that we have in the State of Nebraska by withdrawing our support in what we have said we would do in the past. And that's going to be very important to them. Have they shown that they are credible, that they are accountable for the production credit funds that they've received to this point which have just actually started basically in the last months? Let me just close with a couple of little comments. The plant was purchased by Chief Industries on November 1 of 1990. Since that time, they have planned to double the capacity at a cost of \$20 million. They are putting new monies into that along with the other monies they are going to be receiving. Currently, this is being engineered, they are planning for it to be on line by 1992 and after that expansion they are going to be able to double the production of the corn or the grain, in other words,