

direction. I still support the concept. I support their efforts. There are many good people involved in that effort and they have spent many, many thousands of hours and many years developing this industry. But however successful those efforts have been, I want to emphasize that this body cannot relax, we cannot let down on our vigilance. We must continue to give direction to the Ethanol Authority. The bill you have here was brought to me by some individuals who had put it together and it embodied a number of ideas for an improvement which were requested by the Ethanol Authority. Some of them I agreed with, some of them I did not., but I did agree to carry the bill. I generally agree with the bill in its present form with the exceptions that I mentioned earlier in regard to the Smith amendment. I hope I can support that bill with the Smith amendment as it moves across the board. If it does not appear to be fiscally sound, if there appears to be problems, then I will hope that this body will take whatever measures we can agree upon to make sure that the program becomes and remains fiscally sound. There is no excuse, absolutely no excuse for us to do something on this floor today which we cannot live up to in future years and there is absolutely no excuse for us to advance a bill today that makes commitments which are dependent upon a future legislature to be fulfilled. In other words, I do not believe, and I visited just briefly with Senator Warner, I do not believe that it is good business for us to enact a bill based upon the premise that the 1986, or pardon me, 1996 or '97 Legislature will again reinstate the checkoff. I believe that if we need to reinstate the checkoff, this body might want to take a look at that and I throw that out for your perusal at this time. I know that Senator Schrock is probably better versed on this bill than I am. I appreciate Senator Schrock's taking the bill as a priority bill. He has been a long-time supporter of the ethanol program. He's a corn producer and livestock feeder and he knows the program backward and forward and I know that he will have some good comments on it, as will Senator Smith and others. But I think it's important that all of you become well informed on this bill. If this is successful, and if, in fact, we build an ethanol industry in this state, the Nebraska Legislature and the governors of this state since Governor Exon in 1971 can take full credit for the creation and perhaps the best and the only totally new industry that ever took over in the State of Nebraska, if not in the nation, and that will be a landmark and will be something which we might want to copy. But if it goes belly up, ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you who will be remembered, those of us