

Nebraska, given the impact that it will have financially upon producers of feed grains, assuredly negative, possibly positive if all of the promises of future production come into place, that the whole bill at this point in time quite probably should be bracketed into next year until we know, and I doubt that there are few people on the floor of this Legislature that actually know what we are talking about, have the time to find what it is that we are about today. Five years ago, six years ago, Senator Schmit was successful in convincing the body of the Legislature in the waning days of that session on the wisdom of creating an Ethanol Development Authority to build plants to create a fund. Senator Schmit proposed, at that time, it was going to raise five to seven million dollars, it raised nearly thirteen. Four million of that was rebated as a refund provision. Nine million, a little over, remained. That has grown now to between 18 and 19 million dollars; 18 or 19 million dollars that will satisfy the currently enacted production credits. I think, given the seriousness of this issue, we should think long and hard before supporting this amendment at this time of the session, given the tremendous impact that it will have on the State of Nebraska. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Well, Mr. Speaker and members, I think we ought to have a rule in this Legislature, we cannot debate ethanol bills the last ten days of the session. That is what got us into trouble. In 1986, we passed the original checkoff in the waning days of the session that, as Senator Coordsen just described, generated about twice the amount of money that we thought it was going to. Last year we passed a bill, if I remember correctly, in about the same circumstances on the third or fourth day from the end that I think Senator Coordsen described it best the other night, where our best is a plea of temporary insanity when we did that, to tell you the truth. Now Senator Johnson brings us an amendment here that after initially trying to tack it on a Final Reading bill, he is trying to amend it in today in a somewhat complicated amendment that is a little difficult to track, and it is one of those things that I don't want to claim stupidity or insanity or just out and out lack of knowledge on the whole issue, but we just need to wait a second and figure out what we are doing. Senator Coordsen is absolutely right. I think there is a variety of amendments going to be considered. Senator Johnson, are you going to answer a question for me?