

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and members of the body, like many other members of the body, we keep trying to wade our through...our way through a system that is probably, by necessity, complex and rather new ground. As Senator Schmit indicated, Nebraska has been in the forefront of ethanol development, thanks to his efforts and others who worked on it at the same time. I would have several questions of Senator Schmit, if I might. Do you have time?

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Senator Schmit, with regard to the 2 percent tax credit, do you feel that in the place that we have now moved with the Clean Air Act and whatever that that is a necessary incentive to leave in place, the gas...the pump credit, the two cents?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator, I know that Senator Schrock has some strong feelings about that and I...I would have to say that there are times, and I know that I have said this on the floor, there have been times, Senator, when I have discussed the possibility, the advisability, the desirability of removing that because it has not been trans...it has not been used in the manner which we originally intended and that was to lower the price of gasoline at the pump. It has been instead used as an additional price benefit for the jobber. They've actually pocketed the money. I do not know, today in these times of volatile pricing, and you can probably find a 15-cent disparity in gasoline prices in the state, I guess I would...that's a negotiable item with me, as is the other item that Senator Warner discussed, and I think that we ought to discuss it. I think that perhaps it ought to be removed but I did not want to do so at this time without debate upon the floor.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Well, thank you, Senator Schmit, members of the body, and the other was...had to do with whether to have a refundable or nonrefundable income tax credit as far as that was which you carried on some dialogue with Senator Warner that I don't believe we need to repeat at this time. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the reason for my asking this question that most of the debate, in fact all of the debate, I think, surrounding this issue on the floor the last...today, a little bit yesterday, and previous times when this has been discussed has circled around