

April 7, 1992

LB 754

SENATOR COORDSEN: Okay. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Madam Speaker, Senator Wehrbein mentioned the value of the wet corn milling plant. I will tell you there is another part and that is the extension of the Hastings plant and the \$20 million expansion. I, too, saw the same article in the paper and was concerned as Senator Haberman and we rightly have a right to be when we're giving out maybe tax credits to that extent. But I will tell you I don't think that we can afford to back off or to get scared or not to move forward. The EPA sometimes threatens us and scares us and sometimes doesn't mean anything at all and I question. I took great interest in the article that they had, but for the support and for what Nebraska needs and for our lack of depending on foreign oil, I don't think that we have any other alternative and that this bill has been amended and it has been worked out and about the best one that we can possibly come up with now. So I appreciate Senator Haberman's concern, but we also have to protect and there's a lot of money invested in that Hastings plant, the expansion and a company cannot simply just see that go down the drain either. And with that, Senator Bohlke wanted a minute of my time, please.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Madam President and members. Just to reemphasize what Senator Nelson is saying and we've heard there's been a great deal of work to bring all concerns together on this, Chief Industries has committed to a major expansion at the Hastings plant and the plans have been drawn up, it's ready to go. It is simply in the final stages of finalizing the financing. And as we've discussed in other areas on this floor, this is an important part of economic development for our part of the state. And so I would ask all of you to support this and recognize this as a step forward in economic development and help that become a reality. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Wehrbein, would you answer a couple of questions for me?