

April 7, 1992

LB 754

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR LYNCH: But if you're not making money, you can sell it and make something. Is that how that works?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: You recover it, yes. You recover it one way or another.

SENATOR LYNCH: It's a nice business to be in.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yeah.

SENATOR LYNCH: I think, too, we ought to remind ourselves, too, when you're in the farming business there are a number of subsidies, not just from the federal government, this is another form of a subsidy, land values is another subsidy, how you pay tax on your equipment, we have a number of subsidies. I'm sorry the price of corn hasn't gone up in 20 years, but on the other hand there have been so many subsidies developed it's hard to say whether you really need it if in fact subsidies like this continue to exist. My amendment simply was going to suggest that when these subsidies ran out and when the window of opportunity ended and when in fact 1997 rolled around that General Funds could not be used. But I had a chat with Senator Moore, and Senator Wehrbein is on the Appropriations Committee as well, and we agreed that if we have to have language that would make it obvious that when these kinds of subsidies ran out General Funds would not be used. We have time to do that. And I would suggest that this body has the opportunity to in fact do that as well. And I simply close with this that I appreciate the opportunity to talk about it, to get another shot in for teachers, to maybe clear the air for some of you city folks like me that didn't know about these additional subsidies to the ag industry. But also to say that as far as I'm concerned and for the record, we should make it clear that should any additional monies be needed after '97 the industry itself, the corn growers, the wheat growers, whoever else is out there that sells this product for the purpose of manufacturing this kind of a supplement to gasoline, it should be their responsibility to do that. It should be the industry's responsibility to develop those additional funds, that we shouldn't look and they shouldn't look to the Legislature for any General Fund revenues in the future for this kind of an effort. In my opinion it's bad enough we use the sacred trust fund for this effort. But we shouldn't even ever think about using General Funds. That's