

September 28, 1992 LB 10

dragged back and forth across the floor a number of times, it became apparent to me that the production incentive credits based upon ethanol production in that bill could be jeopardized by a future legislature. Not being very original myself, I copied the arguments and the language from the 775, and I said if I produce ethanol, all I need to do is sign a contract with the Department of Revenue, and that contract will be binding upon the State of Nebraska for a period of five years. So that if my good friends decide we don't have the money in the bank, it doesn't make any difference. The ethanol producers have a contract that is binding. The authors of 775, whether they be Mr. Harper, ConAgra, Mutual of Omaha, Governor Orr, Bill, my good friend from the...Congressman from out west whose name escapes my memory right now...Barrett, thank you, Senator. Whoever was the author very wisely covered themselves with that contractual language and so we can't change that but we ought not then to take advantage of those entities who are at our mercy;...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...300,000 here, 60,000 somewhere else, a million five for the ADC. Those people are vulnerable. I happen to think, very frankly, that the type of language which was in 775, which I placed in 754, is bad for the State of Nebraska, but if you are being protective of your interest, which I was in 754, and which ConAgra was in 775, you put it in there, and then you have got what we call a short-hair hold on the Legislature with a downhill pull, and that is exactly what they got. What I am saying here is let's try not to make liars out of ourselves any more than we have to. We may have to become extremely frugal in the future, but let's not make liars out of ourselves. And then, lastly, whatever we do, let us not pick upon the weak, the vulnerable, and the handicapped. Senator Burbach, more than 20 years ago, told me, Loran, the rich and the powerful and the influential can always take care of themselves. Our major responsibility here is to provide for roads, law enforcement and protection for those who can't take care of themselves.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is where we ought to look at at the issue today.