

that Micron is not coming. And I'm willing to bet two to one that LB 377 does not get the support in this Legislature that the Micron bills got. Now, I hope that I'm mistaken. I'm not going to muddy the water with my comments about the merits of the bill but other than some minor technical adjustments of the kind that are being discussed now, this bill ought to zip right on through and it shouldn't even require much in the way of discussion because all that was had on the Micron bills.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I voted for Micron because a constituent of mine said if my children are going to stay in Nebraska, we're going to have to provide jobs for them. I have three first cousins that live in Omaha and one first cousin that lives in Lincoln. They're all productive citizens and I'm grateful for the jobs they have there. I have a lot of friends in Omaha and Lincoln. Rural Nebraska doesn't have a lot of economic development. Kids leave home. They have to have places to go. I would like to see them in Nebraska. Voting for Micron has very little to do with what we do with ethanol. I would just like to draw to your attention one more time if LB 377 passes, and I hope it does, but I was expecting a little lower level. I guess my expectations are too high. But if LB 377 passes, we will be the only state, the only major corn producing state that taxes corn for the production of ethanol. I thought half a cent was enough. So I don't know where we're headed here. I have been asked to withdraw my amendment so we can move the bill, that we're getting General Funds. A lot of states use General Funds to support ethanol. I thought ethanol was economic development for everybody. I understand there's a lot of people in Omaha working on the Blair plant. It's bringing a lot of people to the State of Nebraska. In my area of the state, farmers spend 30, 40, 50, 60 dollars an acre to water corn. They don't have that problem in Iowa and Illinois and Minnesota. They get their water from above. The cost of production on corn in the irrigated part of Nebraska is much higher than it is in Illinois and Indiana unless, of course, they dry out. But then, of course, we have frost and wind and hail also. So I am willing to vote on it. Let it be where it should be. If it's a half a cent, fine; if it's three-quarter cent, fine but I've got to go home and tell my farmers that three-quarters of a cent was all the crumbs we could get from the table. Thank you.