

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, followed by Senators Cudaback, Stuhr, McKenzie, Warner, Coordsen, Bromm and Dierks.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I do not support the Schrock amendment, but I would like to explore with Senator McKenzie, if I could, a number of items just to get a better understanding of the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And let me say to start with, Senator, that the Micron situation does change my attitude considerably towards this bill, not in the sense that there was a deal or there was not a deal, that's irrelevant to me, but as you'll recall one of the problems I had with the gasohol bill was the fact that it tended to stack incentive upon incentive. Now as I understand it, all of these ethanol plants presently benefit from 775 benefits. That's true, is it not?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator, to some extent, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And that 775 benefit, of course, was available to lots of other businesses in the State of Nebraska. And then on top of that, the ethanol plants are benefitting from the production credit and therein to a certain extent was part of my problem. But now we've created a Micron situation where it's possible for Omaha and Lincoln companies to stack incentive upon incentive and so I think that act, deal or no deal, makes the case much stronger for what you are arguing this year in the Legislature. But at the same time, I think we should continue to recognize that this bill does a lot of good, a lot of clear good, I mean the whole thing has been enormously successful and we should praise the Lord for that I guess, but it has been enormously successful for a relatively small group of people even though those benefits flow down to many others and could you just relate a couple of facts for us so that we get a little bit of a sense of balance about things, if you know them, and I haven't indicated to you that I'm going to be asking you these questions so I understand if you don't know the answers to any of the questions.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: I'll try.