

SENATOR BEUTLER: But can you give us an idea of what kind of a market has been created by ethanol in the State of Nebraska as compared to the total number of bushels produced in the state, you know, what percent of that goes roughly to use in ethanol now? Is it not up around 10 percent or so?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator, are you asking how much ethanol is used in the state and how much is...

SENATOR BEUTLER: How many bushels of corn go into the production of ethanol in the state this year?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: ...how much of our...well, currently we are using, grinding about 138, 150 million bushels of corn.

SENATOR BEUTLER: For ethanol production?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: For ethanol production. The state's total production is somewhere around a billion, one bushels.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so it is roughly in the neighborhood of 10 percent.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Ten percent.

SENATOR BEUTLER: All right, so we should recognize that we have increased the market by 10 percent and accordingly we have put some kind of upward pressure on the price and we know from past discussions in the Legislature that all producers of corn to a certain extent have benefitted and specifically those around plants have benefitted, is it unfair to say enormously?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It's unfair? Okay, but they have benefitted more than others even.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And the figures that were thrown around by the Ethanol Board itself was that the general price of corn has increased by a nickel anyway and, which seems reasonable in light of a...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.