

SENATOR DIERKS: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I just wanted to stand and offer some support for Senator Schrock's amendment. The people that irrigate and farm corn in my district are...it's one of the larger irrigation districts in the state. Polk County has, I think, more center pivot irrigation systems than any other county in the state. I can't tell you where that corn goes. I think I know pretty well but I don't think...very little of it I believe goes to ethanol production. Most of it goes into Kansas or into South Dakota for instance for feedlots. We sell a lot of it in Nebraska for feedlots. I see a tremendous amount of trucks going down Highway 281 carrying corn out every fall and all through the year for that matter, corn that's in storage. These people are not receiving the direct benefit of selling their corn to an ethanol plant so they are being asked to support something with this checkoff that is of good to the entire state but they are asked to spend more of their dollars to fund this than the entire state. I guess that I would like to see it remain at a half cent as it was introduced and help provide some of that relief for our agricultural producers. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I had a question for Senator McKenzie but I don't see here around right now. I wanted to talk a little bit about, follow up on Senator Dierks' comments. Oftentimes we have a difficult time in determining how any issue that costs money, how it relates to our own particular area and I'm sure that that's what Senator Dierks is talking about. Senator McKenzie, would you answer a question, please?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator McKenzie, is it your...with this checkoff you indicated there would probably not be any more plants erected at this time?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator, there are three plants currently under construction who hope to meet the deadline which is December 31, 1995.