

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Schellepeper and Janssen.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have to go back to the political aspects of what it is we're doing because we're a political body. I'd like to ask Senator McKenzie a question or two if, Senator McKenzie, you know the answer.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: I'll do my best.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I have read comments in the paper about the Governor supporting, doing something with reference to the ethanol program but I haven't read anything concrete or specific in terms of how much he is willing to commit in General Fund dollars. What has he told you, if he has told you, or if you know of anybody else he has told how much he is willing to stand behind?

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Senator, the Governor indicated that, first of all, he felt he could support General Fund dollars being included in solving the problem which was not, I guess, a statement we had, I had heard from the Governor before. His concern, and he did not talk about a specific amount but the concern was about this budget cycle and how much money would be necessary in this two year budget after the Governor's budget had already been proposed.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So what you're looking for is to get money for this purpose no matter what the source? Here's what I'm saying, oh, thank you, I won't keep asking you this. I'm an outsider in a way, but I'm also a member of the Legislature, a resident of Nebraska and I have to look at where General Fund money is going to go. If Senator Schrock's amendment had not been an amendment to the committee amendment, I was going to amend his to raise it to a penny and I'll tell you why. While we have some kind of momentum in the Legislature to enact a law, and once we enact it then it's in place and people will grumble about that like they grumble about an increase in the sales tax or anything else, but once it is an accomplished fact it's there and the money is going to come in. I don't have the confidence that you all have that political considerations will not enter