

money to do something about the 1,400 people on the waiting list because we can't afford it. All I can say is, if you're in Texas with all the subsidies they have in that state and from the feds, you can buy gas for 80 cents a gallon. You get ethanol down to about 85 cents a gallon and it sounds like a good idea to me. At least the poor people, the small businesses and others in my district will have something to gain from all of this, and I yield the rest of my time to Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker and members, thank you, Senator Lynch. I have been gone working on something else this morning but I simply wanted to make a comment on this. As I understand this is a half cent instead of the three-quarter and I simply want to say I continue to support the three-quarter cent checkoff. In fact I had a bill in that was killed in committee for a one cent, so obviously this, to me, the three-quarters is satisfactory. I do feel we have, agriculture does have an obligation to support some of this. I support taking from the General Fund but I think agriculture, in good conscience, can support the three-quarter cent. It will benefit agriculture. We do have the plants there. It is not wrong for us to be contributing our share of the support to the Ethanol Fund and so, therefore, I support the three-quarter which would amount to opposing this half cent checkoff amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Bromm.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Senator Wehrbein, if I could ask you a question, please.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR BROMM: Senator Wehrbein, we have a handout that was, you may have on your desk which you may or may not have seen, that goes from this fiscal year through 2000 with the projected three-quarter cent checkoff. Have you seen that or...?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I just picked it up here, yes.

SENATOR BROMM: Okay. Now is it your intent in supporting three quarter cent that that be the extent of agriculture's