

bill is about, would you like to open on the bill. (Laughter.)

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is about corn wars. If we have "eye" wars, we can have corn wars. Members of the body, we have had really a thorough, thorough debate because the committee amendment is the bill. But I would add for additional discussion that I think the body has made a good decision, that I believe the three-quarter cent with a General Fund appropriation makes sense. From the beginning, when interested parties were meeting, trying to find a solution, there were a couple of criteria that were important to me in whatever we put together to bring to the table this session. I wanted something that I felt I could stand behind in good tax policy, not a fee here and a half of this there, and something from fertilizer tax here, or some other hidden tax that isn't up front where we can be accountable. I, personally, felt I had to have something that I could defend, even if it was harder to defend in that form. The other criteria I have stood by all along in the discussion is no tax on inputs, inputs for production agriculture, like the fertilizer tax or an energy tax, or any of the other things that we need at the beginning to be able to produce the crop. To me the check-off or the excise tax is a much fairer...fairer tax. If I have a bad year and I have less commodity to sell, I pay less. If I have a bumper crop, I will pay more as I sell that over time. Those are those...those are the criteria that I believed were important in whatever we put together. I would like to assure Senator Schrock or any other person who's interested I will be more than happy to work with them on suggestions or other ideas between General and Select. I'm just pleased and want to thank all the people who have worked hard to try to come together on this agreement and would encourage advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator McKenzie. We're now debating the motion to advance LB 377 to E & R Initial. Senator Bohlke.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Mr. President, members, Senator McKenzie and I were having this discussion and that earlier, as people have said, that they've checked their area prices and that generally it was about a penny more for a bushel of corn. And as I've pointed out, at the first point of sale we are now going to pay three-quarter of a cent for ethanol, and at that first sale a quarter of a cent to the Corn Board, and so I, you know, as a farmer I'm not sure that we're really seeing that great deal