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the excess funds might be in that fund. My recollection is that there's a projection of something like \$16 million in excess funds because the production credits aren't going...the dollars that will be spent for production credits aren't reaching the level that was anticipated, and the checkoff dollars are coming in, still coming in. So there will be a surplus in that fund.

SENATOR BEUTLER: So the idea with that particular bill is to take the money and to use it as a further subsidy for the purchase of ethanol at the gas pump.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Not a further. It'd be a new initiative. Well, I think at one time we did have an incentive, but that's gone. There isn't anything at the moment. This would be a two-cent reduction in the excise tax.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, but it...but it...it makes no allowance then for the use of the production credit for its original purpose.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Oh, yes. It's only the excess dollars that would be used for the ethanol credit...or for the two-cent credit against the excise tax.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so whatever the 12 or 16, depending on whether Sutherland uses their credits, is being used for the excise tax.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And...and that is in line with the original intent of the use of the money. I mean the statement had been made by somebody earlier that the production credit was the reason for the use of the money and it would be some sort of contradiction to use it for some other purpose.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Okay. The...what we're talking about is the committee amendment. That isn't the way that Senator Stuhr introduced the bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.