

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 22, 1999 LB 142

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: And I'm not sure that the committee's proposal has much favor. Part of the objection might be the issue that you're raising, but the alternative in the committee's eyes was to increase the excise tax on gasoline so that we didn't impair road construction. They didn't seem to be in favor of that, nor we...nor did the committee seem to be in favor of continuation of the checkoff. So seemed that there was some relationship and it would be a use of the dollars that would terminate.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And, Senator Schrock, let me ask you, if I may, is there not another proposal out with regard to ethanol and encouraging the use of ethanol?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Beutler, we're in the formative stages of...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Further discussion on the motion to suspend the germaneness rule? Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Mr. President. I want to call the body back to what the substance of Senator Beutler's amendment is. It seems that he is intent on discussing issues in broad frame, but let me again note for you that the amendment, that is actually the subject of this motion to suspend the rules, is one that would have a transfer take effect on February 15th, the year 2001. So no matter how you feel about these generalized discussions about what we should do with monies, checkoff monies that might be in a fund, Senator Beutler's proposal isn't effective until February 15th of the year 2001 and, again, I would assert that these issues are being brought to you prematurely and that we can give them fuller consideration later on. To continue to explore the issues that Senator Beutler is seeking to raise, there was a bill in the Appropriations Committee. I'm sorry I can't remember the number, Roger, but Senator Wehrbein proposed to terminate the checkoff early, I believe, because of the anticipation that the checkoff would generate more funds that could be used to other production credits. That might ultimately be the decision of this body and there wouldn't be any money to use for the two-cent reduction in the excise tax, as proposed by Senator Stuhr, or any monies to use in the manner that Senator Beutler