

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

April 21, 1999 LB 605

Legislature and also the agricultural organizations and such, that this proposal that we will be offering does make the most effective use of the funds remaining in the EPIC Fund. And I believe that most of us would have to agree that the ethanol industry has been very beneficial for Nebraska, not only for farmers, but also for our entire economy. And I just wanted to review very quickly so that you have an idea of what we are talking about in the amendment that we will be proposing. All of you should have received a copy, a blue handout, which addresses the issue of existing production and that they, particularly the High Plains plant, will be expected to produce 100 percent of its nameplate capacity for the next 12 months and then would be eligible for a credit of 5 cents per 10 million gallons. For expanded or new production, that incentive would be 7-1/2 cents per 10 million gallons for 3 years, and you will notice that Chief is looking towards some expansion, AGP. We're expecting that a new plant, Sutherland plant, will begin production and I know that Senator Pederson would like to speak about that plant, and then a possible plant in western Nebraska that Senator Baker is very involved in. These plants could only choose one option and that is the existing program or the proposed new program. Right now, there's a balance of...or there will be an expected balance of about 9.6 million. The checkoff of farmers producing corn and grain sorghum will continue, that checkoff of a half cent for next year to finish our obligation, and that would run until December 31st the year 2000. And, with that, I would like to turn my remaining time over to Senator Pederson. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, thank you, Senator, appreciate the time. I can see that this is not the easiest thing to talk about. Whenever we start talking about ethanol everybody's eyes kind of glaze over and they just say, I don't get it, but anyway this is not that complicated a matter to consider. Mr. Lieutenant Governor, could we have some attention?

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: (Gavel)

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Thank you. This is really broken down