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encouraging production of ethanol and with the plants and the process laid out by Senator Pederson. With that, I do support the amendments that Senator Stuhr will be presenting but as of yet are not presented formally, so I want you to be sure of the process. Please vote against the committee amendments and I am not going to speak any more on that at this point so there is no confusion, but please vote against the committee amendments and we will get to Senator Stuhr's amendment in due time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. Senator Coordsen, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Well, contrary to Senator Wehrbein, I'm not part of any negotiated agreement. The committee amendments that we have before us today are a result of Senator Stuhr's bill and that was brought to the Revenue Committee with the idea that ethanol was losing market share and that this incentive was a way to increase market share and encourage the use of the production that existed in the state of Nebraska and, therefore, somehow help the producers. Now we have before us a proposal that didn't exist in my knowledge, in any way, shape or form, in Revenue Committee that proposes to increase a tax on the agricultural producers in the state of Nebraska, without a public hearing, to mollify one or two commercial enterprises. Where does the money come from, Senator Stuhr? You know where the money comes from. I'm not reading that, by the way. I'm just a little bit unhappy. We have developed a standard of performance here on the Legislature of enacting programs and then, by golly, when they come to the time when they're supposed to expire, when they've been promised to achieve the results, we here on the floor of the Legislature decide that, oh no, outside of the public forum, the public arena, we're going to extend a program, we're going to increase taxes, we're going to impact an industry, who really at this point in time is somewhat defenseless in this whole argument. No, I think that the committee amendments, if there's money left over from the currently existing three-quarters of a cent on corn and grain sorghum, has the incentive to go ahead and hopefully drive up, perhaps a little bit, the demand for Nebraska-produced ethanol. I'm not going to get into some of the business decisions that were made by some of the people involved in this that are asking for more money. I'm not talking about members of the