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LB 605

Legislature. I'm talking about constituents of theirs. And I will tell you that I'm not going to stand here on the floor of the Legislature. I was told, well, we don't want a fight within agriculture. Baloney! If we don't fight within agriculture, who's going to fight for us? Now I do not...I like the committee amendments. That's fine. We committed ourselves, through a public hearing several years ago, to the checkoff. Let's stick with the course, finish this program. If there's another program that needs to be done introduce a bill, go through the public hearing, allow the proponents and opponents to make their case, and if those are good enough bring them to the floor. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Further discussion on the committee amendments to 605, Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor and members of the body. When we were in Revenue Committee, during the hearings we heard consistently messages that market share for ethanol has dropped; that at one time in the state of Nebraska was in the 50 percent range, it has now dropped down to around 22 percent. This is a concern. Not only does it affect the use of ethanol but it affects the producers. It also affects the people who are producing the grain that they sell to the producers. Now if you're going to look at something from a simple economic standpoint by "incenting" the increase of the market share you are going to benefit everyone in that line. If you can sell more of a product at the pump the producers will make more. When they make more they will make more money. When they make more they will also have to buy more product from the farmers. The farmers will sell more of their grain; they will make more money. So by the simple solution of increasing the market share at the pump we can affect all three sides. We can help the consumer by reducing the cost to them at the pump; we can help the producer; we can help the farmer. I think this is a good solution. It helps everyone along the way. If we only choose to help the producer to produce more ethanol, while it will help us from a business standpoint, it won't increase market share and, frankly, I don't think that's going to help the ethanol business in the long run. They're going to produce a product that they can't sell. Now there's an understanding that a market is probably going to open up within the next