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uses from 13 to 16 million bushels of corn. I say, where would we be without these plants? Even though people...we know that we are experiencing some...some very low prices for our commodities right now. I also have some statistics that this plant has paid nearly \$560,000 in local and county taxes, which is certainly a benefit to those of us that do live in the county and the surrounding area. Yes, there has been some comment about plants shutting down to do some expansion, again increasing their facilities to employ more people and also to use a larger amount of the commodity. I think that all of us, as farmers, have experienced signing contracts at a certain price and, even though the price may be higher somewhere else, if you have made that contract it's a contract. I know, in the case of High Plains, that happened when prices were very high. The following year, they made a contract of \$2.85, whereas the market price was around \$2.00, so...but they had a contract and paid that to their farmers and we all experience those kinds of situations. I will close with that and hope that we can get to the discussion of my amendment, I and others that have signed on to it. I am concerned about the market share. Right now, we're looking at what to do with the EPIC Fund as it concludes on December 31st of the year 2000. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Don Pederson.

SENATOR D. PEDERSON: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the body, I too have a problem trying to see exactly how we tie all this together. The Revenue Committee has heard certain bills and the Appropriations Committee has heard certain bills, but I think what we have come up with, frankly, is a good solution to this problem and I would like to tell you why. Senator Coordsen has said that...didn't have a hearing on increasing the costs to the producers, but this does not increase the cost to the producer. This reduces the cost to the producer. Currently, producers are paying three-quarters of a cent per bushel this year and next year. This provides that they will pay three-quarters of a cent this year and a half-cent next year, so we're reducing the amount that the producers are actually paying. This still leaves a fund available for the expansion of existing program and for the facility in Sutherland, for example. Sutherland I would like to use as an example.