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LB 605

had...I read an article, dated January 20, 1999, that stated the National Corn Growers Association estimated that the ethanol market adds 43 cents to every bushel of corn that a Nebraska producer sells. So whether those statistics, right now we look at it as what benefit; if there isn't a plant particularly in the area where some of the senators are located, they may say, well, what benefit do I receive? But there are numerous benefits. We've made an investment in this state of Nebraska, and I think it is certainly an industry that we need to continue to support. Again, it adds value to our corn, to our commodities, grain sorghum. We're also looking at some potential new plants. We're looking at Sutherland coming aboard, getting back into production, and possibly some other plants. So I stand in opposition to Senator Wickersham's amendment. Another point that I would like to bring out, this is not a new program. We're finishing our contract that started in 1995 for five years, and concludes on December 31st of the year 2000; and what this bill is doing is just distributing those funds that will be accumulated in the EPIC Fund for the continued expansion of ethanol. So, again, I oppose the amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Coordsen, on AM1628 to LB 605. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the body. I'm standing here looking at some information from Iowa, and Illinois, and Kansas, and these are rhetorical questions that I don't expect the good senators to reply to on my time. But the state of Iowa requires no checkoff on corn for ethanol production that's raised in that state nor have they ever, and my question is, is corn cheaper in Iowa? The state of Illinois requires no checkoff for corn, and my question is, is corn cheaper in Illinois? The state of Kansas requires no checkoff for corn, and my question is, is corn cheaper in Kansas? Members of the Legislature, this is, I would guess, an extremely sensitive issue. I support Senator Wickersham's amendment because the reason we have this bill here is that there's been an overcollection, that the production of bushels of grain in the state of Nebraska have been greater than what had been projected at the beginning of the program, and more money was collected or is projected to be collected than what it takes to