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year 2000, it all goes to the corn checkoff board. Let's use the money for expanded production. Let's use the money to keep our present facilities going. Most of this money is not for production that's in place now. Most of it is going to be used for expanded production. And if we don't use it, if they don't expand, if Imperial doesn't come on board, if Sutherland doesn't produce, half of it will go to the corn checkoff board, half of it will go to the General Fund, if we adopt an amendment that's being proposed later here today. So I hope we not only look at what's good for our area of the state, but we look at what's good for the state, and I think ethanol is good for the state of Nebraska.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Stuhr, you're recognized to speak.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature. Again, I rise in opposition of Senator Wickersham's amendment. I really differ very much in the fact that he said that we were throwing money away, throwing it in the wind. I have some statistics here that more than 250 million bushels of grain from Nebraska farms are converted into ethanol and related products at Nebraska plants. And the ethanol plants have produced more than 350 million gallons of ethanol. And we're talking something about the cost. And I know that these plants are constantly looking for new technology so that they can cut their costs. It's like...it has been a new industry and it has taken time for them to work through the technology that has enabled them to cut down on their costs of production. Senator Coordsen mentioned that some states do not have an ethanol checkoff. That's probably true. I mean I don't disagree with that, but I know that the states that he quoted do have corn checkoffs that are somewhat higher than what we are checking off in Nebraska, and, undoubtedly, I haven't checked the facts and figures, but some of those checkoff funds are being used to promote ethanol in their states. Also, I just...I have a question for Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Coordsen?

SENATOR COORDSEN: I shall reciprocate when my time comes, thank you.