

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

May 13, 1999

LB 605

chose the alternative, which was to close both plants, they also have a plant in Kansas, in the spring with the anticipation of opening this fall at harvest. We sold corn cost...the corn contracts for approximately \$14 million. This turned out to be one of the best moves our company has ever made and resulted in the most profitable year we have ever had. Well, they made a choice to choose the alternative of selling their corn contracts and not producing ethanol. The law was in place. They made a business decision, I don't quibble with that, but they knew at the time they made the decision that if they didn't produce ethanol they wouldn't get the credits. I see no reason that we should...we should go back now and offer credits in retrospect for ethanol that was not produced. They made a decision that apparently at the time they were very happy with, I don't argue with. But part of that decision was to forego the ethanol credits. That's what they did. So, again, if I'm incorrect on that, I apologize, but that is the information I have and it underscores the difficulty I have with subsection (4) which would allow this sort of an operation or this sort of a program to go on, which I think is in the...is not in the best interest of corn growers, it is not in the best interest of taxpayers, and it's not in the best interest of the ethanol industry. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Raikes. Senator Wehrbein, on the Raikes amendment to LB 605.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: (Microphone malfunction)...out of the Chamber, but I know he was making light of the fact of ethanol and doing it (inaudible) as a drink, and I wanted to be sure, so we don't leave the wrong impression to anybody that might be watching, that ethanol is poison. You cannot drink it. It's not food grade. There should be no...no consideration of that. And maybe it should go without saying, but ethanol that goes in...alcohol that goes into ethanol is a different...it's not...I know it uses different equipment. I think they use stainless steel in the food grade. I'm not prepared to give all the answers to that, but there ought not to be anyone thinking that you ever should consider drinking ethanol, and that's all I really rose to say, other than to say Senator Raikes makes some good points.