

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

May 13, 1999

LB 605

from Doniphan, Nebraska, at the distribution point there at the end of the pipeline and yesterday his wholesale price from ethanol, what he pays for the fuel, ethanol blended, is six-tenths of a cent cheaper; and yet everywhere you go it's higher at the pump. It is disgusting. Believe you me, the petroleum marketers don't want to market ethanol. It's not what they produce. They produce oil and market oil. They don't produce corn alcohol. But we will be back next year. We did advance a bill out of Natural Resources that would mandate ethanol use in the state of Nebraska. And if the Nebraska share of the ethanol pumped in this state is not priced right and if consumption does not go up, I will be back with another bill. I may not win, but I am in favor of a mandate for using ethanol in this state. It's cleaner, it uses a homegrown product, it's good for agriculture, it's good for the environment. And I am ashamed to say that only 23 percent of the fuel used in this state is ethanol blended. That's really a shame. And farmers who produce it should really be ashamed because they're probably one of the poorest patronizers of their own product. But I just as well say it, I just as well say it because it's the truth. In an era when ag commodity prices are so bad and yet farmers, when they go to fill up their pickups, they'll go right by the ethanol pump and put in the regular unleaded and they're probably buying it from a station that charges less for the regular unleaded and it might even be a co-op. It's really disgusting. Next year we'll be back with some kind of a program to mandate ethanol in this state...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR SCHROCK: ...if consumption doesn't go up. I do support the Beutler amendment. It's been a long evening. I thank you for your time, and I congratulate Senator Raikes on the success of his amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Kremer, on the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. I do appreciate the compromise that Senator Beutler has made. He did want to drop the General Fund \$2 million and has compromised to \$1 million. But he did make a statement that the commitment was