

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

March 13, 2000 LB 1107, 1234

agricultural products, whether they come out of the ground or off the hoof, on the hoof? There will always be an abundance, an overabundance of food of every variety produced in this country. The only question is, who is going to produce it, who is going to control the land, who is going to determine what is produced and what the price will be? We often hear bills come through here, like LB 1234, but, if you go for that bill, you are going to increase the income of certain narrow groups who deal with making ethanol, but the farmer selling the corn is not going to get a commensurate increase in what is realized there. And when it takes more energy to produce ethanol than the amount of energy that ethanol can generate, that doesn't make sense. When, in the process of producing ethanol, petroleum-based fuels are going to have to be used to run equipment to ship this stuff, then you see the sham of the whole thing; it's controlling the market to give something to a few at the expense of the many. This is along the lines of what Senator Coordsen was talking about, although it's not what he was saying. I'm saying it a different way, because I'm taking it a step beyond what he talked about. Public officials, politicians, those of us who formulate policy can try to prettify and change these things any way we want to. But ultimately the impact is going to be on the broad base of the people, they are the ones who are going to feel whatever it is that we do. And in the same way that the Legislature is reluctant to take the Governor on, on certain issues now, if there is another Governor in, because this guy in there is a one-term person, they're going to be afraid to deal with the issue then. It won't matter who is sitting over there. What matters is the will and the determination and backbone of the people who are over here. And if we go along on bills to get along, that can be done, and senators have that privilege. But speaking for myself, I'll say like Patrick Henry, with his hypocritical self holding slaves,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...I know not what course others may take, but, as for me, give me liberty or give me death. Well, I bet his slaves would like to have taken advantage of the latter alternative that he offered. In this discussion that we're having here today, it is about policy. And I'm not going to