

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

March 28, 2000 LB 1234

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, a priority motion. Senator Chambers would move to bracket the bill until April 10 of the year 2000.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your bracket motion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I was listening to Senator Schrock and he said at risk is our most precious resource, and I agree, which is freedom of choice. He wants to take that away. He wants to control the market. He wants to give a leg up to a narrow special interest group. But I venture to say that neither Senator Schrock nor any of the others who want to make all of the consumers put money in their pockets would agree to an amendment that I'm going to offer as this bill moves along and that's that any cost to any station owner, manager, or operator who has to do anything with his or her tanks as a result of the mandate in this bill, and there is still a mandate, it will be paid from the corn checkoff program. And there will be increases in the checkoff amount and whatever is not made up thereby will come out of the state General Fund. If somebody has to put in another tank or rearrange tanks, then it's going to be paid for from the corn checkoff program because that's what this bill is about, not to help the consumers. Never has gasohol or ethanol been able to make it in the marketplace on its own. So we could have President Vladimir Putin pushing this bill today based on what they say about Russia. You dictate. You mandate. You compel. You order. And this is coming from that sector where we hear about all this independence against mandates. Let the market determine, until it comes to a situation where they want to be subsidized and guaranteed some kind of income that others are not. This is not a good bill. It is not a fair bill. And I heard Senator Schrock talk about an exemption in Minnesota for containers of six gallons or less. That shows you this is not the Minnesota bill. For myself, it's not a personal problem because there are stations closer to me in Council Bluffs than the stations in Omaha that I currently buy gasoline from. I will not buy ethanol. Senator Schrock and nobody else can make me buy ethanol. And the people in my district bordering Council Bluffs will just go across the river and buy gasoline there. And all