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LB 1234

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and chemical fertilizers. He doesn't want to talk about that. He hasn't mentioned it and he won't because he doesn't care about the environment. Neither does Johanns nor Ben Nelson who came, I think he came out for this bill, too. If I'm mistaken, well, I apologize to him, but I know I'm not. He did it. They all follow right along, the lemmings. Cargill says, I want...and then there's an echo from Senator Schrock and his colleagues: "this". I want..."that". Give me..."this". They echo what the big shots want. Consumers out the door. I want to hear somebody explain to me what is being done to these station managers. You all voted to give tax breaks to these big television interests because they give you good editorials. I guess that's why.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: But what about the stations?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: That was your third time, Senator. Senator Redfield.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. I rise in support of the bracket motion. I think that we need to go through a little bit of history here on the floor. Last year we had a bill that came out of Revenue Committee to reduce the cost to the consumers by reducing the price of the gas tax by 2 cents for ethanol. Now the Revenue Committee supported that and, as I recall, it was voted on the floor about 41 to 8. We lost that big time. The Revenue Committee said if you are willing to support ethanol by reducing it to the consumers so that they benefit, that in fact it will boost production and the ethanol plants will gain, the farmer will gain in the long run. Everybody was going to be a winner, but it started with helping the consumer. That bill was gutted on the floor last year and it was replaced by production tax credits. We said that we need to help these folks stay in business so that they can be viable for the California market as it comes open to ethanol and so we need to increase production. But there was no concern about whether there was going to be a market to sell all of that production. Had I known at the time that we were going to come back in here with a mandate for ethanol, I certainly would not have supported those production credits at the plant level. I