

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

March 28, 2000 LB 1234

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So really what it amounts to is good advice. Do it, but you don't really have to.

SENATOR CONNEALY: I have an amendment crafted that would make noncompliance an infraction, but I didn't put that in the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So then you would make them criminals if they don't follow the mandate that the state is putting on them? Sell it, offer it for sale, or go out of business, or become a criminal.

SENATOR CONNEALY: I'd have them follow the law, get an infraction.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Connealy. An infraction is a crime in Nebraska, says the Nebraska Supreme Court. But that doesn't mean anything around here. If we're going to make it an infraction, my fine will be \$100 if I repeat it within a year, \$200 if I repeat it again; maybe \$300. So instead of spending all that money to put in tanks, I'm just not going to offer any ethanol for sale. And then when you begin to have these cops going around ticketing all these station owners, what kind of kickback do you think there will be, or backlash from the public? Station owners could even put up signs. I'm being persecuted by the state of Nebraska because they ordered me to sell this product or go out of business or be a criminal. And I think they could get some support because I don't think the public is so concerned about Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland or any of the rest of them. I don't know who all of them are. I only know the old-time criminals, Jesse James, Frank James, the Dalton Brothers. But now, now we're going to let these big corporations who can make it on their own use this Legislature as a tool of oppression, and you're going to tell these small operators, do what we tell you to do or go out of business. I still cannot believe that this is happening. This is surreal to me. I cannot believe it. I expect, instead of saying, Mr. President, and be talking about Clinton or whoever the next one is, but Putin, Putin. What in the world are we doing here, even taking a bill like this seriously? And you're not helping the populace. You're not helping the consumer. You keep hearing the supporters say that the public is not buying ethanol