

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

March 28, 2000

LB 1234

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, we hear continued references to the mandate that lead be taken out of gasoline. That was done at the federal level and it was taken out of all gasoline. Ethanol is not mandated in the way they are attempting to do here, in every state in the union. The federal government is not mandating it. The only thing that we hear is, Minnesota this, Minnesota that. Well, Minnesota has no death penalty either. Minnesota has a wrestler for a governor. So this stuff of talking about Minnesota is pointless, and they expect me to believe it just because they say it. They get their information and their facts, if you want to call them that, from the purveyors and supporters of ethanol. Senator Schrock talked to us about some outfit in Washington, DC who said something about ethanol, and I would bet you a dollar to a doughnut that it's bankrolled by ethanol forces. As I always say, I may have been born at night, Senator Connealy, but I was not born last night, and to stand here as Senator Beutler does, when we're talking about Nebraska and not the whole nation, and suggesting that it's all right to crush out the small entrepreneurs, is contrary to things that they say this Legislature stands for. Didn't I fail miserably when we were talking about a bill to grant economic benefits, tax concessions, to rural entrepreneurs? I failed miserably in trying to get businesses included that you're more likely to find in the rural areas, and this Legislature said, no way. And now this same Legislature is willing to crush out additional rural businesses. This is not going to hurt big stations in Omaha, so it's easy for Senator Beutler to say, crush them out, because he's not going to crush out any Lincoln stations. He's safe. The people he represents are safe. You seldom hear a Lincoln senator say anything or do anything that would go contrary to the interests of the university. That's not always the case, but Lincoln benefits tremendously, so they take an interest in what benefits Lincoln. So it's easy for them to say, kill out those, and kill off those little stations that are not in Lincoln or Omaha. Who even cares about them? I do, and I feel when we talk about economic development, it shouldn't be for the Cargills of this world. It ought to be for the people as a whole. I've spoken against these big corporations, these agribusines outfits, not only on the floor but I confront them when they come before the Ag Committee. I confront them, I