

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

March 28, 2000

LB 1234

yet we go down the street and see stations pricing their product three to four cents higher than the nonblended. And that is frustrating because we don't have any control over it. One thing I have not been hearing much today, I've heard about how greedy whoever is, I don't know, agriculture or the big companies or what, but I don't hear much talk about OPEC. OPEC, of course, aren't greedy. They can just do whatever they want to, just pull the strings around here, it seems like, and get their products whatever price they want to. I also hear that the 10 percent blend would dictate the price if it was a mandate. Well, the gasoline is a 90 percent mandate in there. Why would it not control it more than the ethanol blend? So I don't think that that is true. One other problem that we have in agriculture is the tremendous surplus that we have. There's no way that we can control the amount that we produce each year because we don't know if this year is going to be a tremendous drought throughout the central part of the United States and be short of corn. We enjoy the cheapest food and the safest food in the world, partly because we have tremendous surpluses, and if we can do anything to use up these surpluses in a time when we have them, if we can do it, I think it's good for our whole country, good for our state. Our OPEC countries, we have a tremendous "disbalance" of trade in our country because we import so much more than we export, and here we still feed the export countries, that I'm sure you know that OPEC doesn't need any more money in most of those countries. I think the ethanol has so many things, positive things for it. There's no reason that we can't try to encourage its use. I don't think any of us like a mandate. None of us want to put a burden on some of these small stations, and I would support Senator Bromm's amendment. If we could do something that put off the time that we don't put a hardship on these smaller stations that only have two barrels or containers in order to sell the ethanol, if it would be a hardship, I would be willing to put off some time, but just if we can encourage the price to be priced honestly, I think would be a tremendous advantage and go along way to solving the problem that we have. And I don't think any of us like the mandate, I don't like some things about Senator Connealy's amendment, that they are forced to offer it. If it was priced right, I think would take care of it, but I will support the Connealy amendment and I would support Bromm's amendment and Senator Freister's amendment. What I would like