

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1234

gasoline. It mimics it. The price of ethanol, this is raw ethanol, has gone up 40 cents a gallon since August of '99, 40 cents. Has corn gone up that much? And I realize it doesn't have that direct bearing with the price of corn, but corn has been flat basically all along there. And I know Senator Schrock is going to say, and Senator Kremer too, we need to make some money for these ethanol plants. I understand that and I think the public needs to understand that. I'm not opposed to them making that money. But we need to get away from the...what I consider a misconception that the price of corn is going to go up as ethanol production increases. Not necessarily so as by that graph. The price has gone up and it follows what it's...it...pattern...or it uses...it follows the price of crude oil and I understand that. But don't have the conception in your mind that corn is going to go up anything like that. It does have an effect on the corn market, of course, but not...not like the price of ethanol has gone up. I guess that's all. I will support the Jones amendment. We were...I have a couple of other amendments or one that I've offered and we'll talk about those. One of them mimics the amendment we had last night, but I will support the Jones amendment and return my time back to the Chair. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Senator Schrock, you're recognized on the Jones amendment.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, it's interesting that all these problems should show up now when we've been working on the bill since January. The petroleum marketers don't want this bill to pass. The big oil companies don't want this bill to pass. They're afraid they might have to sell a little ethanol. In the past, they've been content with just dribbling a little bit of it out to satisfy a few corn farmers and satisfy a few people who are interested in the environment. Well, do you trust them? I don't. They brought us MTBE and they said it wasn't going to be a problem. They said it wasn't even being brought into the state. I will tell you this. The petroleum marketers have not sat down with me and talked about any of the problems of this bill. And here they keep bringing hurdles in front of us. We advance this bill to Select File. If they want to, I'll sit down and talk with them and Senator Baker. We'll try and iron these problems out. But