

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

March 29, 2000 LB 1234

to LB 1234? Did you request call-ins, Senator Baker? He has requested a roll call vote. Excuse me, Senator, I'm sorry about that. He requested a roll call vote. Please call the roll, Mr. Clerk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: (Roll call vote taken, Legislative Journal page 1419.) The vote is 12 ayes, 22 nays on the adoption of Senator Baker's amendment, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: The Baker amendment to the committee amendments is not adopted. Mr. Clerk, next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Wickersham would move to amend, Mr. President. (AM2762, Legislative Journal page 1419.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: I do raise the call. Senator Wickersham, to open on your amendment to the committee amendment.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Mr. President, members of the body, this amendment is intended to address what I think the fundamental issues with regard to the use of ethanol are. This amendment simply says that petroleum wholesalers would have to offer to retailers oxygenated fuels with three and one-half percent weight oxygen to, and that's ethanol I take it, and that the motor fuel that is offered by those wholesalers to retailers must be offered at a discount, and the discount that it must be offered at is five cents per gallon. And once that has been received by the retailers, then the retailers have to post on the pump the sign that says ethanol-blended fuel has been supplied from wholesalers at a five-cent discount per gallon. Now if you drive up to a gas station and your choices are fuel at a buck fifty, a buck fifty-five, and a buck seventy, where is your buck going to stop? Are you likely to choose something that costs \$1.50 and maybe even has a higher octane rating than what costs \$1.55. I think I would be quite tempted to use that fuel even if I didn't have other rationales for doing so. It gets at the fundamental economics of the issue and it also...and it also, I believe, raises the other problem that we have with ethanol. Ethanol is a heavily subsidized industry. The production of ethanol is heavily subsidized. It's subsidized by the federal government to the tune of about 5.4 cents per gallon. It's subsidized by the state of Nebraska. So far, I