

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

January 20, 2004 LB 479

place, I think that's good. We will have to find a way to fund them. That's a good problem to have. Maybe the funding bill that we have this year will not be adequate and we'll have to come back next year. I would hope that's the case. We have the capacity to grow a lot of corn in this state and the production is increasing all the time. Just in the past 30 years, corn production in this state has almost doubled. So ethanol is certainly a good way to use this. Senator Bourne, I do like the idea of using Nebraska labor, but I think these ethanol plants that are being built now probably are considerably different than the one that was at Blair and at Columbus. They are kind of a cookie-cutter type of a thing and they bring their crew in, who has already built them elsewhere, and to try and hire a new crew on from Nebraska, people that are not familiar with building ethanol plants, probably would make it tougher for them to meet deadlines. So it's always great when they can use Nebraska labor, but I'm sure some of the people that are working for these companies are Nebraska labor. So I think they have it pretty well down pat as to how to build these plants and it gets to be kind of an assembly line situation. The people that are building these plants have built plants in other states, and they are building plants similar to what they've built in other states, and they understand what needs to be done. Senator Beutler, I am intrigued by your conversation with Senator Kremer. I don't know what it's going to take for some of these to qualify. Certainly there is a plant down at Davenport that may or may not qualify and they are looking at ways as to how they can qualify even though their plant isn't complete. Call it shenanigans, call it what you want. I'd be happy if they qualified because that means they are going to build a plant and they are going to produce ethanol. I noticed you've used your three times. I will turn my light on again and give you more time if you'd like. So that concludes my remarks. Remember, the more the merrier. It's a good problem to have. And how do we finance our ethanol plants? I'm a little...yes. I'm a little peeved about Nebraska labor isn't being used, but I think they are using an assembly line type of construction, and these companies that are building them have also built ethanol plants in other states that are similar to the ones being built here, and it becomes kind of an assembly line thing. And to try and bring a whole new crew on, new contractors, probably would slow