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FLOOR DEBATE

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the projects down.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Baker.

SENATOR BAKER: Thank you, Senator Cudaback, members. Senator Schrock hit it right on the head, the nail right on the head. This plant out in my district is going to be up and running in eight months, eight months. From the time they broke ground, I think it was the end of June, our Governor came out, groundbreaking, eight months it is going to be up and going. It's a \$45 million plant and I can sympathize with Senator Bourne, but, as Senator Schrock pointed out very correctly, this is a very specialized business building ethanol plants. They have people that's all they do, build ethanol plants, and that plant out there is 20...there is 22 miles of piping. That's just piping, 22 miles of piping, and if these people, and I go out there every time I'm home on the weekend, I went out Sunday, got my hard hat on and I walked around the plant, and there were people out there working actually on Sunday, but a very specialized business of building plants. They do use Nebraska people to the best of their ability. I have been very active in making sure that they...I've got people from Arapahoe, Curtis, lots from McCook, Palisade, you name it, that are working on that plant. They've been very pleased with that local labor and I appreciate that. But it comes down to some free enterprise. Past experience with the contractors, they know what it's going to cost. When these people put a proposal together, the construction company puts a proposal together for the principals that are going to fund this, they say, they know, this is what it's going to cost, boom, boom, boom, for piping, electrical work, concrete, so on, et cetera. And, as I said, that plant in my district is going to be built in eight months. They can't afford to take the time to train some new people. They may be very able welders, pipe fitters and so on, but they don't want to take the time to have to train these people. They're coming from a plant in Russell, Kansas, to Campus, Kansas, east of Oakley, some of the same people who built the plant in Russell, of course, the one in Oakley, the one there at Trenton. And I will say this for the contractors. It's amazing how many pipe fitters we have from western Nebraska. They look...they have a parking lot out there and I go down there and there are people