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SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...but if we are awarding \$20 million to \$30 million in taxpayer dollars, I think that changes things dramatically. Now, ...so, you know, in a sense, I would argue to you that it's not even a private company; it's a quasi-private company. These plants will be in large part funded by tax dollars, if you add up all the credits and those things. So while I understand your concern, what we're saying is, okay, we'll give you these credits, we support ethanol, ethanol is a good thing; however, if you want to play ball, if you want to participate in this program, you're going to do it this way and you're going to allow Nebraska contractors, at a minimum, to bid on these jobs.

SENATOR SCHROCK: All right. Thank you, Senator Bourne.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. (Visitors and doctor of the day introduced.) We appreciate you being here with us. On with discussion of the Bourne amendment, Senator Baker. Senator Baker, did you wish to address the Bourne amendment?

SENATOR BAKER: Yes. Thank you, Senator Cudaback and members. I understand what Senator Bourne is trying to do here, and I support that. I'm like Senator Schrock; I have some reservations about putting it in statute. I think, yes, some of these companies are not actually bidding on these ethanol projects because the general contractors worked in the past with people that may not be Nebraska-based companies but they have a...provided a known quality of work, and they're timely, and so on. And I want to make sure we get some things in the record here, that comparable bids is not just going to be dollars; it's going to be past experience with the companies that are bidding, you know, a prior working relationship, known quality of work, and so on. Timeliness is such a big issue here. And I can see somebody would have a lower bid, and they might very well do good work, but they've never built an ethanol plant, never been in an ethanol plant, or been around them. And there's a certain amount of efficiencies built into repeating this job that