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March 3, 2004

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schrock, will you yield to a question from Senator Chambers?

SENATOR SCHROCK: I will.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Schrock, how long had Ms. McDowell worked at that plant, in any capacity?

SENATOR SCHROCK: First of all, Senator Chambers, the plant is in Hastings, and she works at Grand Island. But it's my understanding she has oversight over all environmental issues by Chief Industries. And she has only been with them two or three years. I'm not quite sure. The violations took place before she was employed. And I don't think anybody knows all the circumstances.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Had...excuse me. Had she visited the plant in Hastings, or she had a long-distance management style?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Senator Chambers, I'm assuming she has visited the plant, but I don't know the details.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. I'm going to make my comments anyway. Thank you, Senator Schrock. If there is a person with a position of ultimate responsibility and does not know what's going on in the area she is in charge of, it raises concerns in my mind, and I begin to wonder if the position is one that is only token. It is the name of a position on maybe some kind of flow chart, and a person is put into that position with no particular expertise, and it's done only to create an appearance. The more that I read about this situation, and things that I hear in phone calls, makes me see this as a very sticky and stinky situation. I think it would be better for her nomination to just go away. We have been told how clean ethanol is as a fuel. But we can see that those who are making it are not clean themselves, nor are the processes and procedures they use clean. When people are asked direct questions and they become very closed-mouthed or evasive, as some of the top dogs with that company have shown themselves to be, it raises additional questions in my mind. And not only has money been given to those plants, and other monies pledged which will put