

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

April 5, 2004

LB 1065

SENATOR BAKER: Yes and no. I think we're about to reach our goal. No, I did not wish to be recognized. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Thank you, Senator Baker. Mr. Clerk, record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Debate has ceased. We now go to Senator Chambers, for the closing on your floor amendment, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I'm going to try to remember a verse from Edgar Allan Poe's poem "The Raven," the point out what this amendment is designed to do. He was mourning the loss of a woman who meant a great deal to him. It was late at night. He was having those experiences where he wasn't sure whether he was awake or asleep. And when he heard sounds, he thought it might be his beloved returning to him. He heard rappings and tappings. And he looked at the door, thinking that it was somebody coming. So at one point he said, presently my soul grew stronger; hesitating then no longer, ...do you want me to go on? No you don't. I'll do that at another time. But I'll tell you what the punch line would have been: then I opened wide the door; darkness there, and nothing more. I agree with Senator Baker's analysis that if this amendment that I'm offering you were adopted, you would open wide the door and you would look into the pit which has no bottom. But the way this state has dealt with ethanol, we are almost in that set of circumstances now. That is why a bill like LB 1065, which is trying to do corrective work, is before us. I hope that there will be enough people to vote favorably on Senator Wehrbein's amendment. His amendment having been filed will prevent me at this point from offering any others, because if his is adopted, there's no need for me to do anything else on this bill. Gas prices are higher now than they have ever been, and you want to talk about raising the gas tax? Ever time somebody goes to the pump to fill up, they're not going to be aware of exactly how much the increase was that the Legislature is responsible for directly. We're not talking about a variable gas tax increase to fund the building of roads and maintenance of roads. We're talking about raising