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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 1065

amendment is not adopted. I'm not going to mention the dollar amount of corn per bushel, because everybody who has an interest knows that. A penny is not unreasonable. This is not going into the General Fund. It is going to support an industry which the farming community says is of such great value. One penny. Senator Schrock said LB 1065 is needed. Obviously it's not needed very badly. It's not worth a penny to him. Well, if the gas tax remains in it, if Senator Wehrbein is not going to support it, I'm not going to support it, there are others who are not going to support it, you won't get cloture. So what are you going to do? Stay on this bill for the rest of the session? I doubt that the Speaker wants that to happen. But if he does, it's all right with me. There's a certain bullheadedness--and that's a notch past being merely stubborn--which leads people in the ag sector to say one penny is unreasonable when it's spent for their purposes. We're not telling Senator Schrock, underwrite some project in Omaha, some project in Lincoln. Projects in his area. And the benefit will redound to those people he represents, if they grow corn. But for my part, if you don't get LB 1065, what difference does that make to me? You'll come back here, if you listen to Senator Schrock and you accept the truth of what he said, you'll come back here next session and have a worse problem, because some of those doors that were to be closed will not have been closed. You're going to need more money. And Senator Schrock is not going to find any sympathy, when he stood on this floor and said a penny is too much for the ag sector to absorb. He will say, give us several millions of dollars from the General Fund, raise the gas tax more, take money out of the LUST fund, take some of the Environmental Trust Fund, and every place he might look where he can get some money to give to these purveyors, speculators, and investors in the boondoggle. Senator Wehrbein has a rational proposal. The money in the form of the checkoff will come from those who are benefiting, those who have it. If they don't grow any corn, if they don't meet the criteria, there is nothing checked off. It will be to the benefit of their sector if all of these ethanol plants are built. But Senator Schrock pointed out, as have others, if this LB 1065 does not pass, then it just joins the collection of other issues we will have to deal with...