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LB 90

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the Education Committee will have an Executive Session at 10:45 in Room 2022.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. On with discussion of FA259. Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Connealy and others.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, ethanol is one of those products that I have never been convinced about. Others are. It's the boondoggle that is taking place in Nebraska that I have opposed, which I still oppose. But I'm not going to fight the whole bill because of that. Unfortunately, the Legislature let itself get put over the barrel again, is obliged to do certain things. Senator Wehrbein has persuaded some of the people who will benefit from the production of ethanol to agree to kick in some money. I don't object to that. People, I think, mislead the public when they talk about ethanol somehow reducing America's reliance on foreign oil. Do you know what percentage of America's energy needs, based on these kind of products, is met by ethanol? Do you see how many fingers I'm holding up? Each finger represents a percentage point. One, two, three percent; 3 percent of the energy needs that come from petroleum and you talk about ethanol. Now, how long is it going to take you, if you grew the whole country in corn and nothing else, to overcome America's reliance on foreign oil? Bigger vehicles are being made, that burn gasoline. They are going to continue to sell, people are going to continue to drive them, because the advertisers have hooked America on anything big. Petroleum products are necessary to fuel the production of ethanol. Petroleum products would include diesel fuel. Ethanol cannot be channeled down a groove in the highway, so you just start running the ethanol down that groove, and it goes from one place, from the plant, to distribution points, and from those points to retailers. It's moved in trucks. Farm equipment is not fueled with ethanol. Farm equipment does not use ethanol. The trucks that move ethanol are not fueled by ethanol. ADM is the one that keeps the federal subsidy going. And without that, the industry would collapse. Everybody knows that. ADM acknowledges that countrywide, even with the so-called gasoline crisis--meaning