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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 90

SENATOR MINES: Senator Bourne, I guess the only question I have is, why now? Why, given the fact that plants...some plants haven't been built, some may not be built, why should the body make a move today, as opposed to several years from now?

SENATOR BOURNE: You know, Senator Mines, that's a great question. And I think I could say, why not now? If you remember, I talked about this on General Fund (sic). I have a problem, in that oftentimes, as a Legislature, we don't solve the whole problem. Number one, we had an ethanol program, LB 536, which I supported. And I don't want to rehash some of the debates we've had in the past. But I don't feel...and to this day I don't feel we had a lot of Nebraska people building these plants. And I am optimistic that if another few, three, four, five plants are built, that we would use some Nebraska people to build the plants. And I think that we...although I don't believe we would ever not honor our obligation--I absolutely am convinced we would do that, whether we do it today through this amendment or do it in two or three years through another bill--I do think that we should adequately fund this program. Hopefully, additional plants will be built because of the commitment that will be made apparent by the bill. And I think it just makes sense to me. I think you could also make an argument, Senator Mines, that you cannot look at a new incentive program unless the existing one is adequately funded.

SENATOR MINES: But given...and that was a very long answer to a very short question. Thank you.

SENATOR BOURNE: Hey, I'm a politician, Senator Mines.

SENATOR MINES: (Laugh) Given that we don't know what might happen with construction on some plants, what's your expectation? What if we don't do anything?

SENATOR BOURNE: Well, then...

SENATOR MINES: What's the worst that could happen?

SENATOR BOURNE: What's the worst thing that would happen if what?