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FLOOR DEBATE

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other monstrosities on the highway, and decommission them, that would decrease to a greater extent than any other effort America's dependence on foreign oil. Get those gas-guzzlers off the road. But that's not going to happen. These hybrids that the group is interested in having the auto manufacturers produce would allow these vehicles to travel 60 miles on the battery power without having to utilize gasoline. What the automakers have said is that that would be prohibitively expensive, and they probably have a point. There are a lot of crackbrained notions which nevertheless ought to be discussed, because sometimes even among these insane, crackbrained ideas will be found a kernel of value which may be used to produce something that is truly practical and worthwhile. Ethanol does not fall into that category. If you study what has happened with ethanol in this state, you will see a blueprint for bewitching, bebothering, bewildering, and beguiling legislators, who only need to be told, this will use Nebraska corn, Nebraska farmers are going to benefit, so do it. Nebraska has an increasingly aging population. Nebraskans do not have, overall, high-paying jobs. As these big business interests are being granted exemption from carrying their share of the tax burden, more of it is going to fall on the citizens. As you reach the point of fewer citizens, comparatively speaking, available to pay taxes, they are going to have to pay more to pay the same debt, because you have fewer people kicking into the pot. But at the same time this dynamic is unfolding, the Legislature is continuing to put in place programs that will obligate people...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...in the future to spend millions of dollars, tens of millions of dollars, ultimately maybe hundreds of millions, nobody knows. And we won't even get that information as elected officials. We're going to be discussing pretty soon what should be done about these well gougers, who knew that a point was going to be reached, if a settlement was entered into, where wells could not be dug, so they just went out there and started digging wells everywhere they could. And we have that problem now, and it's going to grow. And the problem that exists because of that is going to continue in place, and more and more money is going to have to be paid by