

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

April 21, 1999 LB 605

Production Credit Fund. I don't believe that there are many industries across the state that have...contribute, should I say, equally in the support of bringing new industry into the state as agriculture producers have. And, with that, I stand in opposition. I think that the amendment that we are looking at we've talked about some new plants that will be coming, a new plant that will be coming into the state possibly, the plant at Sutherland, and I believe I passed out an article, don't have it right in front of me now, but telling about Governor Johanns' trip to Taiwan and the possible use of...of trying to build some interest in using ethanol in that country. I believe that the ethanol industry, some facts that I would just like to share with you again, that 900 Nebraskans hold full-time jobs at the state's ethanol plants. That represents an annual payroll of over \$31 million and there are also 4,700 direct and indirect jobs in the ethanol-related industry. And we are still contributing that half-cent that, no, it is not the entire agreement but it is a compromise that we have been working on in the last couple weeks to try to bring the previous amendment forth. With that, I close in opposition. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Stuhr. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler, if you might respond, you're kind of insinuating that the deal was made in 1992 the checkoff would be at three-quarters of a cent and the General Fund would contribute approximately an equal amount of money, and you're saying the reduction of this corn checkoff from three-quarter of a cent to half a cent the past year is what you're trying to do in this amendment. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: It's...it's to...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...to restore, simply to restore the three-quarters...

SENATOR SCHROCK: Um-hum.