

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

April 6, 2004

LB 1065

question from Senator Schrock?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I will give some kind of answer, yes.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Be brutally, totally honest with me. Wouldn't you be disappointed if we didn't have an ethanol bill next year?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Would I...next year?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I don't know if I'd even come down here if we didn't. (Laughter)

SENATOR SCHROCK: It seems like every time we've had an ethanol bill you've been involved and, you know, you've influenced it a way that I'd rather not see influenced. But, Senator Beutler, yes, I am interested in what you have to do. One of the things about LB 1065 is it clarifies language that if there is a shortage that the fund doesn't come out of the Highway Trust Fund, that the extra doesn't come. I kind of hate to see that out there, because that's kind of a hammer those of us in rural Nebraska have. It's an issue that is not clear right now, because we have one statute, I believe, that says one thing, and another statute says another thing. I think if the fund was short, I don't think it would come out of a Highway Trust Fund now. But there is clarifying language in this. So, yes, I am interested because I think there's going to be more than four plants. Matter of fact, I'm one of those that hopes there's going to be more than one...four plants, because I think this is a wonderful problem. My fear is that we might have a big corn crop this year nationwide and the price of corn drops down to \$2 a bushel. But if we can keep grinding corn and keep making ethanol...and by the way, the output on ethanol is just booming and the consumption is just booming, and the acceptance of it is overwhelming now. And, yes, it is being accepted in rural areas now. Even the people who I say railed against it for years, all of a sudden there's an ethanol plant proposed in their area and they get excited and all of a sudden they become believers. It's amazing. So I'm interested in what you have to say and I would support additional funding coming in from this...for this