

February 23, 1979

LB 571

SENATOR SCHMIT: The meeting will be Wednesday evening at 7:30. It meets the five...

SPEAKER MARVEL: The key to it seems to be the Sunday newspapers, and it will be in before at that time prior to when you hold the hearing. Is that right?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is correct.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan, for what purpose do you rise?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Schmit, I also have the...have a concern about adequate public notice, and if it's a bill of major import, I wonder...I'm not sure what your bill does, I wonder if you could just very quickly, you know, tell us, give us some idea as to the import of it, whether or not, if it's a bill of major consequence, I'm not sure that we shouldn't give people the opportunity for a little more input, or a little more time to become aware of the hearing.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Cullan, it is a bill of major importance, I think it's a very important bill, and it's a bill which has had some publicity in the past and I'm sure will receive substantial publicity prior to the hearing date and certainly will...should receive publicity far greater than the mere notice in the Sunday newspaper. The bill, very briefly, would allow the state of Nebraska to construct, or to contract with a community for the construction of a grain alcohol plant, and then the State of Nebraska would lease the plant back, and allow someone to operate it. The plant would be paid for through a one-cent gas tax credit, and that is the crux of the entire bill, really. I think that it's an indication, if the bill becomes law, that the State of Nebraska intends to do something about the energy problem, and to do it in a decisive manner, and I think that the entire situation today as volatile as it is worldwide relative to energy indicates the need for some kind of leadership, and Nebraska has been in a leadership position in this area. I think we should retain it. The members of the committee thought so in the introduction of the bill, and I would hope that the Legislature would concur with us and allow us to move the hearing date forward so that the bill could be acted upon this legislative session.

SENATOR CULLAN: Well, Senator Schmit, I do not mean to hold you up so I certainly will raise no objection, but I do hope that the press does report this hearing widely so that those who are for or against this proposal and the millions of dollars of state money which would be involved do come forward and testify. Thank you.