

March 26, 1979

LB 571

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Schmit, I understand the reason that we are striking grain. Could you explain why they are extending the eighteen month period for an operational basis on these plants to twenty-four?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well the reason is that in visiting with engineering firms it was determined that it might be just cutting it pretty short to get it done in eighteen months and therefore we didn't want to run into...obviously if the plant was under construction and we ran into a problem and we were 90% completed and the eighteen months ran out we would have a little problem. We didn't want to be in violation of the law. Twenty-four months is considered to be sufficiently adequate for the construction process to be completed.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there other discussion on the committee amendments? The vote is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 571. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the committee amendments to 571. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendments are adopted. Now, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would like to briefly explain LB 571 and the philosophy behind the bill. Many of you will recall it has been about eight years ago that this Legislature chose to enter into a program of developing alcohol as a source of energy in the event that fossil fuels became short in supply. At that time we were told that there would never be a shortage of fossil fuels and it was ridiculous for us to do that and that if we did enter into that kind of a resource program that it might raise the price of gasoline by three cents a gallon. At that time I was paying twenty-nine cents a gallon for gasoline delivered to the farm. This past week the price was seventy-one cents a gallon. The petroleum people who said that it would raise the price three cents meant that it would raise it three hundred percent apparently. In any event then, the price of gasoline has risen dramatically and while we have been promised one dollar per gallon gasoline for many months. We now, only Saturday, were promised by Mr. Schlesinger, two dollars per gallon gasoline. It is very obvious that there