

April 18, 1979

LB 571

What he told us was that they are going to use part of the by-product to generate methane gas which will be used in the distillation process so there are new ways coming. Eventually we will see this price of producing alcohol reduced even more so. We see people on the farms producing alcohol at the cost of between forty-five and fifty cents a gallon. So I think we should get into the production of alcohol as soon as possible. With the energy crisis, we had people from the National Energy Office talk to us and it is a problem. With the worldwide expansion of the energy use, we will see more and more shortage coming about. It isn't just here in the United States that we are using more and more energy. When you see the amount that the total world is using, it is staggering. It is something that we should really take a look at, that probably sources that we are now considering as being reliable sources of foreign crude will dry out because other nations will be outbidding us and it will be more and more of a problem to produce our food which uses a lot of energy. So I think we should do all we can to get Nebraska back as the number one nation as far as gasohol, not production but consideration of production because we are not producing any alcohol here to use as an alternate source of fuel. I think another problem that we should consider, that Senator Schmit spoke briefly about, is the export of our dollars with no generating any income here in the United States, losing jobs because of this. I have been told one time that for every dollar that a farmer receives, seven dollars is generated as far as jobs in the rest of the economy in this nation and this state. So it is something we should consider not to send these dollars overseas and probably most of these will never return to this nation. I think that the people that were at the hearing opposing gasohol, some of these had their problems solved when we talk about not diverting money for road purposes but to have it as a source of ensuring that these bonds will be paid if there were to be a default in one of these plants. So I want to go on record as supporting LB 571.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to utilize my time in attempting to address all the major objections that could or would be raised to this legislation and attempt to rebut them. The first major objection that we have heard is that the people of Nebraska would be opposed or would not tolerate a one cent per gallon tax on gasoline to finance a plant for gasohol. Rebuttal, at this very moment, you are having handed out to you and made public for the first time a Joe B.