

April 18, 1979

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- Williams poll which was conducted less than a month ago during the month of April in which all of the conventional polling procedures were utilized and it showed as follows as you will see, and you are having a copy of this handed out to you now. 1,040 telephone interviews which is a very in depth sampling, as you know, Joe B. Williams, who is probably Nebraska's and the Midwest foremost pollster, the one utilized by the World Herald repeatedly over the years, et cetera, it shows as follows: Question: Would you be for or against a one cent increase in state gasoline tax if the money was to be used for building gasohol plants in Nebraska? 65% are for this, 29% against it, 6% no opinion, and you can go down the breakdown of age, men, women, first, second, third district, Omaha, Lincoln, et cetera, et cetera. I won't go through that. You can look at it. Second question, second question: Turn it over and read it. This will blow your minds. Are you for or against a one cent increase in state gasoline tax, now get this, if the money was to be used for bridge improvements on state highways? For, 40%; against, 53%; 7%, no opinion. I guess the conclusion is Nebraska and this nation and the people are saying to us, quit fooling around and talk, talk, talk about gasohol. Go ahead and do it, and if it takes a one cent per gallon gasoline tax to do it, okay, we are ready. Second issue raised against gasohol. Economically unfeasible, we don't know enough, don't have it developed enough. Gasohol is a baby industry and it is always compared with the oil industry which is a mature industry. When oil was first discovered, the only way they could get it was by going a few feet in the ground or taking it right off the surface and then burning it in lamps. As technology developed, we found you could make plastics, medicine, get it from tens of thousands of feet in the ground. Use it to run automobiles, and everything else. Give gasohol the same opportunities for development, technological development, as oil had, and you will probably see even greater things. So you cannot legitimately compare an industry that has yet to have the first plant, commercial plant, built strictly for gasohol production. The first plant ever to be built in this country hasn't been built yet. You can't compare that with the oil industry. It has to develop, too. Next issue, yes, you are trying to get gasohol but you are using subsidies, you are using subsidies, two cents, five cents a gallon, whatever it is. You are using subsidies. Answer, no major industry in these United States, no major industry, was developed without some assistance, some help to get it going. The airlines, the railroads. The railroad is probably the biggest

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