

April 18, 1979

LB 571

The Chair would like to first, Mr. Clerk, take this opportunity to introduce some 35 seventh grade students from Henderson, Nebraska in Senator Sieck's and Kremer's Districts, John Quiring, teacher. They are in the North balcony. Would they kind of wave to us over here? Welcome to your Legislature. And we also have at the same time, we have a number of Kiwanians in the, mostly I believe in the South balcony but they are visiting with their State Legislature today. So we welcome all of you to your Legislature and trust that you are enjoying the debate on gasohol. We have another amendment on the desk, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Koch moves to amend the Schmit amendment: Read Koch's amendment offered on page 1530, Legislative Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I am totally in agreement with the concept being advanced. However, I have some concerns about the fact we are going to leave this hopefully in the hands of a city, a village, a county or some other kind of interlocal cooperative arrangement. I am a strong proponent of the private enterprise system. It is one of the reasons America is where it is today even though we do have some unique problems occasionally. I think for us to walk away from 571 without including the provision of the private sector as a possible interested party, I think we are making a mistake. I cannot see why the body would not accept this amendment which says "private industry" or city, county, village or who it might be, may enter into an agreement with the Economic Development Department based upon the concurrence and the affirmation of the Governor and the Legislature. My own opinion would be that the private sector would be the most efficient, would be the most effective and would be able to manage it to our best advantage. I have some difficulty supporting the bill unless we provide this provision, the private sector, allow them to come into this business as well, and if you do not adopt this amendment, then I guess I will have to refuse to support LB 571 even though I agree with most of you that gasohol should have been in place four or five years ago. When I first came here, the big discussion was gasohol. I was briefed time and time again. The same thing that Senator DeCamp said a moment ago about wasting a food product is not true. We would be more efficiently using the food product and still producing an energy that we need badly. So, therefore, I suggest to you allow the private industry, the private sector to become a