

May 21, 1979

LB 585

weekend I had cattle feeders call me who had only one day's supply of fuel on hand to feed their livestock and didn't know where they could get any. Now that cattle feeder is not going to worry whether the gasoline or the alcohol or the diesel costs him a dollar or a dollar and a half a gallon, cattle need to be fed. Corn needs to be planted. Alternate sources of energy need to be developed. The people who have deplored the use of power alcohol over the years have never provided any alternative. They have sat back and ridiculed. They have chastised. They have criticized but I have seen no alternative. Today gasohol is an international word and because we have a few detractors, not necessarily in this body but in this state, the program lags. I think that it is an example of good faith on our part to appropriate this \$300,000 to be allocated at the discretion of the Governor if he feels that some of those communities have shown sufficient promise in their development to justify that award. The \$10,000 goes to the National Gasohol Commission. Nebraska has been the leader among the fifty states over the years. Nebraska is the location of the National Gasohol Commission at the present time. The original request was for \$30,000. There are approximately twenty-seven states who have indicated an interest in being a member of the National Gasohol Commission, many of them of course have the same problem with their Legislature that this commission has with the Nebraska Legislature but I have felt that an appropriation of \$10,000 by this Nebraska Legislature to coordinate the activity of the gasohol personnel programs in the various states is certainly justified. Now comes the hard part and that is the reduction of the water conservation fund by \$300,000. Very frankly, Senator Warner told me that he was within a few thousand dollars of having the budget for this year be within the 7% spending limit. He has pointed out very emphatically that without a reduction of some kind in some program, that there would be an excess appropriation or an appropriation in excess of the 7%. There is a \$500,000 discretionary fund which can be used for small dam projects if the commission decides to use it. I have been assured that of course many of these projects are not even at this time, on the drawing board because they do not know what this body will do if anything. Therefore, those projects I think are certainly flexible enough that they could be delayed for a short period of time.

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

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