

February 22, 1980

LB 876, 902

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the motion to advance, Mr. President.

Mr. President, LB 876 was introduced by Senator Loran Schmit. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 22. It was referred to the Ag and Environment Committee. It was advanced to General File. I have no amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this bill increases from one eighth to one quarter of a cent the amount of money that is diverted from the refund ordinarily paid to farmers to the gasohol committee. As you know there has been a tremendous increase in gasohol in the last few years and the demands upon the committee have increased considerably. The fund has not increased in the last nine years and there is a considerable effort now at the present time to involve the Nebraska Gasohol Committee in efforts to assist other people who are in the process of getting into the business of producing alcohol so I feel we need the funds and I move for the advancement of the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Any other discussion? Senator Warner and Senator Kahle, Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I just wanted to point out this has been true of several agencies but this was one which initially had quite a bit of reserve from its early years. It was gradually being depleted and at the same time their opportunity to expand the use and promote the use of gasohol has risen substantially and I certainly think it is an excellent bill to support. Obviously it is funded by the people who in part will benefit from any success. The farmers and their refund is reduced from gas tax and I would hope the body would advance it and of course the expenditure of these additional funds are subject to appropriation and review by the Legislature which assures our monitoring of how the funds are used.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, members, I do support Senator Schmit's bill. I think that we are finally getting to the place now where this committee and all activities that have to do with gasohol are reaching a high pitch and I am sure that demands upon them are more than they have been in the past so I certainly approve of this quarter percent increase or quarter of a cent increase. I think it is timely and important. So I urge your adoption.