

bill advance. In fact, I've been accused of carrying it very reluctantly and slowly, but that is not true. I'd just like to say this, the bill, I believe, that we passed in '71, has created an ethanol fuels industry. It has been copied, not only in the State of Nebraska, but in many other states and in other countries throughout the world. Had it been followed more enthusiastically we might not be in the desperate financial conditions we are here...we find ourselves in here today. It is kind of interesting that the Nebraska Legislature is criticized oftentimes for not doing things right, for the things we do wrong, and we probably made some mistakes. But I don't think that anyone in the State of Nebraska or the United States can say that we did the wrong thing when we started this gasohol program. The Nebraska Gasohol Committee has functioned very efficiently, very frugally, and has been financed by the farmers themselves from the money they normally receive from their tax refund gasoline. There are not very many members who were here when this program started, back in 1971. I would like to say that during the period of years that we have followed up on this program we have made some changes to the program. They have all been for the good and they've all benefited the industry. Now we are going to try to see if the ethanol industry can survive with a little less of a tax incentive. I want to say this again, I think it might be a little premature, but I have several other ideas that we will discuss with you later on, perhaps on Select File, that might reduce the drain further on the roads fund and might give the ethanol industry a greater incentive to produce. So if there are no further questions, Mr. President, I move the bill be advanced.

PRESIDENT: An amendment is being offered now.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vard Johnson has an amendment to the bill, found on page 755.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, you going to handle this proposal?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I move for the adoption of the Vard Johnson amendment. After the Revenue Committee advanced this bill to the floor, the Tax Commissioner noticed that there was not an operative date in this bill. So what this amendment does is puts in a January 1, 1985, operative date. We need this amendment to