

C.J. Hoke, Southern Nebraska Power Company, was not in favor of the bill. After he was down here and heard the testimony and so on in the Public Works Committee, I'm sure that he now supports it. One of the gentlemen that has gone through the ethanol, the drying, the business, is Stan DeBoer of Bertrand, Nebraska. His testimony was very valuable to me. He has operated a small plant. He knows the ins and the outs, and the many, many problems that are encountered, and there are a lot of them. He had some very good points. As Senator Schmit said, the surplus money that Washington...they are not going to help us on the farm program. And I don't look at this as a complete answer for our excess corn and so on. But, as Stan said, Washington got us into this, so let's go right back to Washington and let's just not give up, let's just keep working, and working, and working. There is some excess CCC grain this year that has to go somewhere. And I agree with Senator Vickers, we are not going to expect our farmers to fund this entirely, but they do have to start the seed money. Originally, the 10 cents a bushel, I could not support that. But when we are down to 1.5 cents a bushel, I don't know if most of you know that corn has dropped about 70 cents a bushel, or will by this fall, from the loan rate. Then if you store that in town you are taking another 30 cents a bushel off of that, or 36 cents for the year. So this is a big drop. The farmers, boy, another cent I can't stand. I look at that at gasoline price, you can go down the block and find 5 cents difference. So I know that the 1.5 cents is a little bit, but I think it is a pittance amount when the possibilities...and we have to try to do something for ourself in the farm program. I think storage of grain is about 61 cents a bushel for the year. So if we can encourage Washington to give us a little bit of that instead of paying storage prices, I cannot tell you. Another concern is the phasing out of lead in the gasoline. I know that there is a point where it is feasible and that it pays out. With the drop in gasoline, some will say, you are batting your head against the wall. But I'm not going to stand here and take a lot of time. It is Friday afternoon, and everyone is restless. But...and there are many, many proponents of this. I think it has been well thought out. I want to comment Senator Schmit, Senator Vickers, Rod Johnson and the others that have worked, done a considerable amount of work on this. They are to be commended. Maybe...I'm not sold 100 percent that there are not a lot of obstacles to overcome. But the only way we do that is by helping ourselves. With that, I'll close.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Schmit, please. Oh,