

75 million gallon, to me that would cost 15 million a year. A half cent raises, on a checkoff, I am told, raises 5 million a year, so that means that we are 10 million short, once you get up close to 75, how much we are short in between depends on what the production is obviously. But we will continue to dip into the Highway Trust Fund to fund it on indefinitely and in ever larger amounts. And as a matter of fact, the checkoff will never occur. Senator Schmit, I was here, too, when you introduced the start of this bill. As I recall, the goal was for 20 million gallons of Gasohol to be sold, and once we met that, why it would be able to finance itself. Well, we have extended that and changed it and expanded it many times, and we'll do it again. If we do not establish a checkoff now when it doesn't need to be imposed, you can believe that two years from now or whenever it comes, why then we will say, well, let's just use the highway funds another year or two and then we'll get the checkoff in. What Senator Wehrbein is offering does not take effect now. It is not enough. I have an amendment later that can go on to anywhere in the bill, just simply reinstates the checkoff at the half cent level whenever the fund gets below \$5 million, runs for one year, one crop production. And that would refurnish the fund up to 10 million, less what was being spent, but it makes absolutely no sense to me as a farmer that I should be unwilling to establish the principle of using the checkoff if that is what is necessary to get production. I can tell you that if it adds 20 cents a gallon and it costs me a half a cent, that is the cheapest cost of production I will have in my entire corn crop. There is nothing I do, my property taxes cost me more than that. My fuel costs me more than that. My fertilizer costs me more than that, but if I can get 20 cents from a half cent investment, that is the best bargain you can possibly have, or if it was a cent, it would be a bargain. That is clearing 19 cents. That's not bad. I would hope that while I agree with the concept, Senator Wehrbein, of commencing a checkoff, it is so far in the future and so short of what would be adequate to fund, whether it is 10 percent or 20 cents on the production credit, it is not realistic. I will vote against it, although I support the concept. It makes more sense to me to, at a time when we don't have to impose it, that we establish the principle that a checkoff, in fact, will be the source of funding, and irregardless of...or excuse me, regardless...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: ...of the form that the bill takes otherwise,