

to properly describe certain types of areas that needed relief and that sort of thing. Those are parts of the amendment which I think we need. My concern is this, that as of now one of the principal...there are two principal points to this amendment. The number one continues a 20-cents per gallon tax, production credit, for existing production, production that was in place before we ever passed any of these bills. And, second, it terminates the equity investment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Ladies and gentlemen, that is exactly backwards from the way we started. I have to oppose it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Rod Johnson, did you wish to address the Schrock amendment?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are having a negotiating seminar here at the Johnson desk here, but I think we're trying to work something out that might cover some of the objections that certain folks have. Rather than lose this bill at this point in time, we are trying to work something out. I think we might have something here. But I did want to point out that if we do nothing at this particular point, the program continues at 20-cents production credit, continues the new equity investments, if that happens. It continues the funding mix between the Highway Trust Fund and the Ethanol Fund. So the amendments that we are trying to adopt through my amendment, at least, are trying to address some of those concerns. The Schrock amendment, however, there is a lot of concern or there has been a lot of discussion, I guess, about whether the 2 cent exemption at the pump means anything, or entices anybody to use ethanol. I don't know but it is an area I guess we can concede if we thought we could get something else out of the issue. And so all I can say right now is we will try and work something out here because I can't even hear myself think at the moment. So I will give the rest of my time to Senator Schmit, if he would like it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Johnson is correct, and that is why I believe it is important that we do something on the bill. We can't just hang the bill up because one of the worst features of 1124 the previous session is the