

center, but that's not what I think the bill does at this point so I want some clarity on that. On the ethanol side of the legislation, you know, we've got ourselves in a pickle here and I know Senator Wehrbein has conscientiously tried to address that by finding some funding and originally his legislation talked about a checkoff, but there's no checkoff in this bill anymore. No, we're rediverting some fertilizer tax which is all already revenue coming in to help make up for some of the revenue loss under the sales tax exemption on farm machinery. Well we're just digging ourselves in a deeper hole by this legislation because now we took off that exemption, now we're going to eventually repeal the fertilizer tax or we're diverting it over here to cover this ethanol expenditure and we don't do the checkoff to help cover some of the cost which will be additional revenue. We're taking existing revenue and redirecting it to cover that obligation that we have. And I see this as compounding itself into a fiscal obligation that we aren't ready and able to meet. And I'm sorry to raise all these concerns at this late point. I understand the bill is going to pass. I'm just telling you the reasons why I think it's a mistake and I'll be opposing it. I understand there will be some discussion. Perhaps if at least we can get some intent here about where we're going, for instance, how are we ultimately going to cover, what is it a \$100 million obligation on the ethanol tax credits? Fertilizer tax isn't going to cover all of that, is it? I don't know exactly where we're headed with all this. And a discussion about where this bill leaves us in terms of the future would be helpful and I'd ask for that discussion and then obviously we can go on to a vote.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Abboud wishes to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 27 fourth graders here from Wildwood Elementary School in Ralston, Nebraska and their teacher. They are all in the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Senator Elmer wishes to announce that the following guests are visiting the Legislature. There are 25 twelfth graders here from Red Cloud High School in Red Cloud, Nebraska and their teacher. They are in the south balcony. Will you all stand and be recognized, please. Thank you. Senator Chambers, your light is next.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Madam President, members of the Legislature, a deal has been cut, no question about it. It reminds me of a period in history when a black statesman, military wizard kicked