

represents at least the fifth or sixth time that the Department of Environmental Control have attempted to slap onto a bill, a legitimate bill, in this case, the provisions that require the licensing of second class cities and villages. A number of years ago, a very fine Senator named Whitney sitting in this seat took those cities and villages out of the law because the Department of Environmental Control didn't possibly have the resources to give them all equal treatment. Furthermore, it was determined in many instances they not only didn't give them equal treatment, they give them excessive treatment, treatment far beyond that which those second class cities or villages ever wanted or desired or were found to be necessary. Mr. Dan Drain testified before the Ag and Environment Committee in support of this amendment on another bill. I asked him how much it would cost the cities and the counties. Now I know we are all conservative in this body. At least we are on Friday afternoon when we have to go home and face the people, and then when it came time to move that solid waste site in Omaha at the cost of several hundred million dollars, everyone lamented the cost. Well, Mr. Drain said, offhandedly, that it would cost local government, get this straight, local government between fifteen and twenty million dollars if we enacted this provision. Now that is not sales and income tax so that is not sacred money but we are trying now in this body to relieve property tax time after time after time. But at the expense of property, we are willing to slap on the cities and counties this kind of an expense. Now the law allows the Department of Environmental Control to assist those cities and villages which want assistance. It allows the Department to provide the technical help they need. But the present law does not allow them to insist. Now as Senator Venditte has pointed out time after time after time, you know there are agencies that can solve a multitude of little problems but they can't solve the biggest problem of all, that which exists in Omaha. Now let the Department assist Omaha in solving that problem. Let them solve the problem that exists in the City of Lincoln and the first class cities. Let them solve the problem of those second class cities and villages who want assistance and who ask for assistance, but by dammit, let's not provide the means whereby they can harass those small cities and villages which are doing the best they can afford and don't want any more help. Senator Simon is sincere. I know he is trying to do what he thinks is fair for everyone but, Senator Simon, it does not, under the present law, preclude the Department from assisting those cities which want help, second class size and villages. But the present law prevents their imposing that help upon those subdivisions. Now before you adopt this amendment, remember again, do you want to go back home and tell your people that you voted for an amendment that is going to cost them somewhere between fifteen and twenty million dollars annually. I just think that in this time when we talk about cost, and we have been telling the local subdivisions we may even put a 7% lid on what you can spend and then we turn around and say, but by golly, we are going to let you spend another twenty million bucks. We got all we can do. I kind of like the responsibility I have for the 23rd Legislative District but I don't want to usurp the responsibility for David City's councilmen, Wahoo councilmen, Brainard, Bruno, Abie, Bellwood, anyone else. Let those men that are elected, and women, let them take care of that responsibility.