

PRESIDENT: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I find the acrimony here this morning rather interesting. I am not sure if I know what the definition is of litter, but if you want to see litter and smell litter, you know, just come down to the Seventh District and you can have all you want 24 hours a day. I hear the chuckles in the background but I can assure you, a year or two ago when they were proposing that balefill sight in my legislative district about six blocks from where I live, we weren't laughing. You know it is interesting, too, to note that even today I am still getting calls from people who live in and around, and I mean in the balefill site itself, garbage, huge collections of Omaha's garbage being placed in the backyards of where people live and I think any member of the Ag and Environment Committee they will attest to that very point because they have been there. The thing that is somewhat frustrating about this particular piece of legislation to me is simply this, 50% of the introducers of that bill did not support my solid waste bill last year and all we had asked in that solid waste bill was simply this, get garbage away from where people live. No, the majority of the members of this Legislature did not think that that was a very important issue at that time. They felt that the health and safety of the people living within that environment would certainly be taken care of by city officials, EPA and whomever else is in charge of keeping our environment clean. Well, I can assure you right now we have fleas and flies and mosquitoes and the smell of the garbage dump still existing. Yet we are talking about getting rid of 5% to 15% of our total solid waste, cans and bottles. I wish we had that problem in my district. I would think that perhaps maybe one of the things that we could do here is prioritize what we consider to be of the most concern to us then in the area of solid waste. At this point in time, I don't think bottles and cans would set at the top of the list. I can appreciate Senator Schmit's efforts in the Ag and Environment Committee to help the City of Omaha in attempting to solve its problems in the area of solid waste. To date, we in the City have done a very poor job in manarement of solid waste, both in the area of human waste as well as in disposition of solid waste that we generate just from eating on a day to day basis. I would encourage those of you people that think that bottles and cans are litter, I can assure you just riding around in the City of Omaha, I don't consider, and I'm totally sincere when I say this, I don't see bottles and cans thrown out in the streets in the City of Omaha. We, I don't think, in my opinion, don't have no problem in urban Nebraska with bottles and cans. From what I have heard, this appears to be a rural problem and we are just zeroing in on perhaps 5% or maybe 10% of the total solid waste. I think we need to redirect our concerns in the area of solid waste and I don't think starting with bottles and cans is a proper beginning. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would just like to make a point that Senator DeCamp just brought out that we went through this two years ago with LB 987. He said, we don't have a very good bill here but let's get something passed. We went through the accountability act that was something to pass. It wasn't any good but we