

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Madam Chair. I agree. I agree with Senator Nelson. In fact, I have instructed the Bill Drafter to draft an amendment which would do exactly...would do it on the retail level so that it'd be similar to a sales tax. However, it'd be on the per ton basis and it would be paid by me when I get it from the retailer. I don't know what mechanism I can use to get it in the bill, but I would do that.

SENATOR NELSON: Thank you, Senator Lamb.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Ladies and gentlemen, many years ago there lived in the forest a monkey and a fox and they had a continual argument going as to who was the most intelligent because they agreed that whoever was the most intelligent should be the king of forest. I heard this argue...this story many years ago when I was a very young lad so I may not remember it exactly, but I don't think I'll miss the point very far. Anyway, they decided that whoever was the most intelligent should be the king of the forest and though...but they didn't know how to decide who was the most intelligent. The monkey said, well, I can swing through the trees and I can go from tree to tree. You have to walk on the ground. Obviously, I'm the most intelligent. And the fox said, well, no, I can build things so I'm the most intelligent. He said, well, what can you build? Well, he said, I can build this beautiful structure, looks like a house. And so the monkey said, well, let me see it. And so the fox showed him the house and inside the house there was a banana and so the monkey jumped into the house and lo and behold the trap door sprang shut on him and he was trapped. And he said, let me out of here. I'm the most intelligent animal in the forest and I'm the king of the forest. And the fox said, if you are so intelligent what are you doing in the trap? Well, ladies and gentlemen, I think that the trap has been sprung. We have started down the road where we voluntarily, without any debate, without any a...with a few minutes of debate, without a hearing, we impose a tax, a per ton tax on fertilizers and I will have to say this, that it's not unusual that we do, I've done it tonight several times, amended...substituted one amendment for another, but there will be many, many rural legislators who will be very happy to know that this was the Lindsay amendment which put the 4 dollars per ton on fertilizer and I don't think...I don't think that when you go back home it's going to sell very well.