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this industry to say that it might be that a well would be inactive for a large number of years, depending on the price of oil?

SENATOR MATZKE: That's...that's correct. There are...there are inactive oil wells or shut-in oil wells now that are five and ten years old, haven't been produced for many years. This would only apply to wells that had been inactive for two years or longer.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. So the...the \$200 fee would build up until the Oil and Gas Commission determined that there was enough in the fund overall to take care of these abandoned wells as a...as a group?

SENATOR MATZKE: That's correct. It wouldn't be...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...unlimited. The commission would determine, by regulation, after public hearing, the need and that need might be 50,000 or 100,000, and when the fund reached whatever level that they deemed to be necessary then...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR MATZKE: ...the fee would be reduced or eliminated.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Chair recognizes Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. My exploration I think is just a little bit, and it's not oil exploration, Senator Baker, along the lines that Senator Beutler seems to be headed. Certainly I'm not a person who has day-to-day familiarity with...with oil production in the United States, but the concern that I have with this bill and...though it apparently is backed by the industry and that, is what impact it might have in the future. I think we're all aware that in parts of this nation there are older oil fields that the production has dropped in the wells to where essentially, in some areas they call them stripper wells, and most of those have been...have been taken out of production or capped but not