

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator, the language which you are referring to was recommended by the Department of Governmental Control. There has been some concern from the Department of Environmental Control relative to the fact that certain cities have been forced to meet certain standards of compliance in relation to solid waste and there is a real definite reason to believe that perhaps the existing regulations are too stringent and that the amount of solid waste that can be deposited, for example, in the Missouri River is greater than was previously believed to be acceptable. There is, however, the concern that if it would rise to a certain level that it would need to be monitored and that the Department of Governmental Control would need to perhaps advise and counsel municipalities relative to that disposal. As I understand the reason for including the definition we give the DEC that kind of authority.

SENATOR BEUTLER: It would give them the authority over domestic sewage?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Is there any reason, Senator Schmit, that we should not also eliminate the language "solid and dissolved materials in irrigation return flows" so that in case there was a problem there that they would have some jurisdiction over that type of solid waste?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, very frankly, we discussed it personally and at some length. The question that I raised was whether or not they needed to have that authority. They said they have not had any problem, that their principal problem right now would be to provide manpower to supervise and monitor that kind of an operation. I would have to oppose the amendment at this time if you tried to include it because I am afraid that at this time it would not be likely that the Department would have the funds to monitor it. We depend to a large extent upon federal funds for the operation of this office. Those funds, as you know, are in considerable jeopardy and it was felt by the Department that they had better spend their funds in those areas where they are most effective and where the threat to human beings, et cetera, was the most severe. I believe, and I did tell the Department that we would expect them to come back to us. We are going to have hearings during the interim period and attempt to try to decide just how serious the problem is if, in fact, a problem does exist and if so, we have asked them to make recommendations to us in how they would like to