

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, we're making, I think, rather light of this issue because it is a very serious one and I added my name to LB 325 because there were some particular areas that I had of interest of this issue because it starts us down the path of tackling basically two fundamental problems that this state has. The first, of course, the most obvious happens to be the environmental concerns that I think are beginning to spread around the state with the contamination of groundwater and our soil. The second is, of course, the surplus of grain that we have and the potential of using a grain...or a corn-based product in an alternative way other than feeding it to cattle or making ethanol of it. Here is another alternative source for us to use our commodity in a different way than we do currently. So we're tackling two basic problems. And I think that Senator Hefner should be commended. I know that the Nebraska Corn Board has taken...or Corn Growers Association has taken a very active interest in this issue and has led for its support. We're making light of the diaper aspect of this and that's maybe a rather significant or insignificant aspect of the bill but, to me, at least it seems that as we recognize that Nebraska does have some contamination problems and they are contamination problems that don't always relate to agriculture, as some people would suggest that the most contamination comes from that area, we have a lot of city municipality landfills that are causing contamination around the State of Nebraska and if this can help resolve some of those problems, whether it includes or does not include diapers, I think it's a meritorious piece of legislation to move forward. I have had a lot of you come up to me, I guess, since I'm the newest father on this floor, and ask me about the biodegradable diapers and have we used them. The answer is, yes. Does my wife like them? The answer is, not really, but that doesn't mean or doesn't reflect that the product is not a good one. It's simply not yet at a quality, I think, that the commercial purchaser of that product may want, at least that's the consumer side of what my wife has told me. And I make no representation that it's a bad product, it's simply a different kind of product than the other types that are on the shelves today. And if we feel that this is a high enough priority that we feel it's important to pass the bill, then I suggest that we include it. If you feel that the production level of providing biodegradable diapers on our shelves cannot be met by 1993, I think is the way the amendment reads, then I don't think we should mandate that. But I'm still listening to debate. I'm still trying to find out whether or not production schedules can be met so that the state