

Natural Resources District not to sunset this fund in about two years because it is my feeling from talking to people and so forth that this problem is not going to go away in five years, so I don't think we have to worry about the Highway Trust Fund right away getting a big windfall of money. I think it is going to be with us for a long period of time. I simply wanted to add that to the record is that I think this is a problem that we are facing today, kind of under the gun, but I think we are going to face it in the future.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Nelson, followed by Senator Elmer.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I don't serve on the Natural Resources Committee but I certainly have had a lot of firsthand experience and I guess that I can almost tell you one of the horror stories that every one of these small towns will be running into. And I want to commend Senator Schmit and the Natural Resources Committee for trying to tackle this problem. This is firsthand experience, a small town right close to me, they discovered gasoline down in the first water. How it started is last January a resident of a rental housing thought that she smelled gas in her basement, and the local fire department as well as the Fire Marshal's Office, it is like being a cop, be darned if you do and be darned if you don't, they moved in there. They closed off the area, thought that there could be a possibility of gas following a line in from the service station close into the basement. As it turned out after about eight months time, it was determined that that was not true and the flow of the water, but let me give you the scenario that every one of these small towns and possibilities are in. The farmer or the person that owned the actual service station ground leased it to another party for about 15 years, which I am guessing the tanks probably leaked a considerable amount of time during that time. Then another young fellow purchased that lease from the original lessor and operated the station for about two years, and he was in the process of not being able to make it financially. So along came his good-natured or father-in-law then purchased the service station from him in order to help his son-in-law. Who do you suppose was responsible, and it was caused by a law that we passed here in the Legislature. That father-in-law, then, was responsible for that gasoline down in that first water. They drilled any number of tests, and as we worked it out, I personally know the town. It is close to Grand Island, Doniphan, I will tell you, and we found five different old service stations in town, a service