

in business 30 years or more called with alarm because as he read the law, and he had read it rightly as that would be instituted, there would be no way in which this service station would be able to continue on, and what he was reflecting was that of rural Nebraska. If one leaves the interstate at Grand Island on Highway 2, there are very few locations that are going to have service installations that could even consider the amount of the cost of insurance that would be required by the federal government in taking care of this problem. Now the point of this is that one would travel several hundred miles on Highway 2 if we do nothing. It would take out the service stations along this very vital route because the towns are relatively small, the service stations are small. They would not...they would certainly not have the capital to be able to purchase the insurance that would be required by our federal government. This instituted LB 289. True, it may have flaws at this time but what we must recognize that it is necessary that we create the mechanism by which we can retain these vital service stations which are family operated and are so much a part of the community and our well-being throughout much of the geographic area of our state. The problem that has been caused has been caused by all of us. We required the gasoline and oil and diesel fuel. We had the people make their investments. It has been going on for a number of years. Leaks have occurred unknowingly. We are now being told that this will have to be cleaned up. Where these accidents have occurred we don't even know, and it is necessary that we create within our state a means, and this fund of which we are talking about, is one way. We must work upon LB 289. If it has flaws, let's correct them as much as we can, and as to the worry about what we will do with the money in the future, I am sure that this legislative body will have numerous, multitudinous ideas and ways of handling it as that time approaches, but we must take care of what is imperative now, and that is those many, many service stations that we have serving us here in Nebraska at this time. I thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to have a couple of questions of Senator Schmit. First let me just state, though, before I ask Senator Schmit some questions, I am very concerned, obviously, about the environment and problems with the environment and this bill is an attempt to deal with that very important issue of underground storage tanks and its