

SENATOR HEFNER: Well, that's okay.

SENATOR WARNER: It's so simple I guess that I...

SENATOR HEFNER: It starts in 1986. Now why did you pick that date? Why don't we go back to 1980 because we've had some problems as far back as then?

SENATOR WARNER: Because that was the effective date of the law that this body passed requiring the reporting and the registration. Prior to that time you didn't have the same requirements that came into effect July 17, 1986.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, and your amendment says that if an owner of an underground tank had spent some money, they wouldn't be reimbursed for that, but if they found that it had contaminated since then and would do it after the effective date of this bill, well, then they would be eligible.

SENATOR WARNER: They would be eligible if they made the other threshold, the first 25,000 that they have to pay themselves no matter what. You know, how many of those firms that are identified on those sheets have met the 25,000 or it requires that, I don't know. In any event they...the first 25,000 they pay no matter what.

SENATOR HEFNER: Well, Senator Warner, I appreciate your coming with this amendment, but I just don't know whether we can add that amendment on or not. I feel that we need to get this bill passed because the owners of underground tanks have to have, as I understand, a million dollars of liability insurance by a year from now and so this bill is very important. But I think what we're missing out on this morning is leaky tanks in our state are becoming a problem and it's time that we need to address them. Like Senator Schmit said, we don't know how many there are, but we know there are some out there, and when petroleum products leak into the ground, it is going to cause some contamination. It is going to contaminate the soil that it leaks into and probably eventually get down to our ground water, and so we need to protect our groundwater. This body has saw fit to pass a chemigation bill that I feel is working very well in Nebraska. We do have a nitrate problem that we certainly need to address and I certainly don't have the answer for that either, but I think we need to get started on something. This