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LB 289

environmental issues which are troubling us were not even thought of, not even a vague idea in anyone's mind when we created the Department of Environmental Control back in 1971. And Senator Smith has had a little experience out there in her area with the plant at Hastings and Senator Nelson has had a problem out there at Doniphan and more recently, I think, at the Cornhusker Ordnance Plant. I have a little problem up at Mead and we do not know how extensive those problems will become and frequently a problem that is left unattended becomes much more serious and then develops into other people's problems. For example, the problem at Mead today is being discussed and the corps is involved and the university is concerned and farmers are concerned, but downstream, guess what's downstream? The City of Lincoln well system. Suppose that that system becomes contaminated, I would suspect that there might possibly be someone who will join Senator Warner in saying, wait a minute, surely this should not be the responsibility of just the people of Lincoln to locate a new well system, surely we have to have some help and maybe they should. Certainly, it isn't the citizens of Lincoln's fault that back...there was a war back in 1940 which required the construction of bombs...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...that they had to build them at Mead and that the technology at that time said just sweep the TNT out the front door and flush it away, but we have a little bit of the same situation here. And I want to emphasize again, we do not know the cost of the problem that faces us but I think that from the standpoint of equity, I think that Senator Warner brings to us a very reasonable bill. Maybe, maybe in the future we may have to take a different look at how it's funded. Maybe it's not fair to include the railroads to the extent they are being included because virtually all but maybe 20,000 gallons of their fuel has been up above ground for years and yet they are making a healthy contribution here. Maybe agriculture is paying too much, but I think it's fair at the time because as Senator Lamb points out, if we close these stations down and I have to haul fuel 50 miles, that's going to be expensive also. So there are many, many inequities. Senator Owen Elmer suggests that we study it over the summer and...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we're going to be studying it. We have no