

this floor we went to great lengths to assist in the encouragement of business in Omaha and part of that was that a major company, ConAgra, made a major commitment to build on the riverfront as a result of some encouragements that we gave. The city, I believe, and the County of Douglas, City of Omaha and County of Douglas, assumed certain responsibilities and, lo and behold, what happened? Contamination of the soil was discovered up there and I do not know at this time the total cost of that cleanup but it is in the millions of dollars. I know of instances where individuals have attempted to acquire land, some of it in that area, some of it in other areas, but are totally unwilling to purchase land today because of the environmental cost of cleanup. And in most instances, they don't even know if there is going to be a cost there or not, but because of the inability to determine the cost of the cleanup, some pieces of land, formerly with a certain substantial value, today may not have any value. We are entering into a new era, ladies and gentlemen, relative to this sort of an activity. How we treat individuals...

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...in this instance is going to have a tremendous impact upon how the public looks upon various aspects of these programs in the future. So what we do here, ladies and gentlemen, from the standpoint of equity may very well affect many environmental programs as we proceed, may affect your own livelihood, your own business, but more than that, may affect the entire State of Nebraska from the standpoint of how we address and how we accept the responsibility for cleaning up the environment which when, very frankly, it was being contaminated, most of us did not realize it was taking place. So I tried to address the negatives of the Warner amendment. I tried to tell you why I support it and I'm glad to discuss it some more, but I really think, I hope you will discuss it over lunch and, remember, as Senator Elmer said, this isn't going to be the last of it. There may well have to be something done...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...at a later time, but the longer you put it off the less likelihood of addressing it in an equitable manner insofar as I am concerned.

SPEAKER BARKETT: Senator Langford.