

Mr. President, the Legislature was discussing LB 289. Senator Schmit had offered an amendment that you will find in your bill books. It is AM1757. Senator Warner had moved to amend that amendment, Mr. President. We were discussing Senator Warner's amendment.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, your light was on next. Would you like to talk about this please?

SENATOR ELMER: Might as well get the ball rolling this afternoon, Mr. President and members. Senator Warner has an amendment that we all feel is probably morally right, but I think we have to be pragmatic about the situation. Economically and in all practicality, I believe we are going to need to go ahead with the way the amendment has been originally drafted and probably would need to defeat this amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Morrissey, please, followed by Senator Rod Johnson, then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. First of all, we have to realize that there is absolutely no way to implement this program without discriminating against someone. If we do what Senator Elmer suggested and study it, you are going to discourage people or you are going to encourage them to slow down their spending on what they are now cleaning up because they won't be reimbursed for what is already spent. So you will encourage them to slow down any clean-up efforts that might be going on. If you adopt Senator Warner's amendment, you are going to discourage against the people that fell into that category that have already cleaned up because they will get no reimbursement, but yet the people that are still working on it will get some money for any future effort they put into this, and I have a question for Senator Warner, please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Realizing, Senator, that the fund will take no action until it has built up, how do you foresee this working? Now these people apply for this, are they going to apply for it, and it is on a first come, first serve basis, and if these folks apply to it and then they wait until it builds up to a certain level, and then we drain it right down immediately and then try and build it back up again, and drain it down, that