

that money, but, if, in fact, they have continued expense from this time forward, they should be allowed to enjoy the benefits of the bill. On the basis of equity, I cannot disagree with that. On the basis of the additional cost to the bill, I really cannot disagree with it because I think it will be a small portion of the total cost of the bill. It may be significant to those individual entities who are involved. It may mean the difference between life and death of their business, and so I would find it very difficult to say that when we create a fund financed by the public to benefit certain entities from this point forward, I find it difficult to say that those who happened to fall before the time line should be exempted from those benefits. I think that if we do that, if we do not adopt the Warner amendment, then we may very well be setting a bad precedent, ladies and gentlemen, for further environmental problems that develop in the future, and it is my deep concern that if we do not accept responsibility for those who have knowingly complied with the law, in the future there may be a tendency to not want to reveal environmental problems for fear of being stuck with the financial responsibility knowing that in the past the Legislature then acted at a later date and assisted certain entities which in this case was to their benefit, but if you encourage the delay of reporting, encourage the nonreporting of environmental damage or environmental problems, then I think it is to the detriment of all of us and, of course, the ultimate expense of clean up then becomes even more serious and more detrimental. So I know Senator Warner says that it shouldn't even be a problem and in some ways I can see where he is coming from because we do not like to knowingly create problems on this floor and, therefore, I support the Warner amendment and I support...I am not going to say at this time, in fact, I'm not really adverse against...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...Senator Landis's proposal, because if we have to put the money in there, maybe we should do it, and the combined wisdom of this floor may be better than the wisdom of the committee. And so I am not going to argue that point a great deal. Thank you, again.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. May I introduce some guests in the north balcony of Senator Withem. We have 60 fourth grade students from Papillion, Nebraska with their teacher. They are from the Hickory Hill Elementary. Would you folks please stand and be