

May 18, 1989

LB 289

right now if we let it drop too low and the problems keep popping up and we let the fund get too low and we delay cleanup, in that delaying of the cleanup we will be incurring more expenses as we delay cleaning up these leaks because if we delay cleaning some up because the money isn't available, they're going to get larger and larger as they continue to leak and they will continue to put more and more burden on the people of the state and the owners that we're depending on to distribute our petroleum out there in the field. When I first read this newest version of this bill this was the first thing that jumped out into my mind was these funds, they let it drop too low and we didn't build it back up to five. So it is a definite unknown and I think we must adopt Senator Landis's amendment until we can get a better feel for what is going on out there because if we let it drop too low, and I feel what is in there now is too low, it can cause us more money and more problems in the future. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, under the circumstances, I have to request my name be withdrawn as the sponsor of the amendment, and I am going to have to oppose it. The cliché of taxation without representation was what this country was founded on. Now we're going to have taxation without participation. A whole host of the people I represent are going to be denied the opportunity to participate but they're going to pay and that don't make any sense. I was willing to increase because I think it's necessary. I heard one of the sponsors say, just a few minutes ago, didn't know if it was going to cost 5 million, 10 million or a 100 million, yet the amendment right before was rejected because it had a cost. You don't know what it's going to cost. Makes no sense what you're doing. Now, unfortunately, the amendment has to be adopted, I don't deny that. I can't vote for it, obviously, not the direction you're going. I can't even get up and hassle the bill because I know we have to do something. I guess I could but I won't. The only thing I have to do and I'm going to say it on the floor is I will write... I will write to the company, it's a co-op, because I have to give an explanation why the Legislature rejected this. And what I'm going to write to them is that the organization that was representing them did not support it, that that's the only one I know of. I would urge you to adopt the amendment. I'm going to vote no.