

we have people with expertise helping out in the decision-making process of this bill. Secondly, it adds natural resource districts to this list of agencies and groups that would be consulted when a problem of water quality would come up. Third, it defines what a commercial applicator is and, fourth, it specifies that private and commercial applicators certificates, or certification expires after three years. Currently they are four years long, but we have lowered that amount to three so that if I'm either private or commercial applicator I would have to receive training every three years rather than every four years, so those are what the committee amendments do. Mr. Speaker, I'd move for their adoption.

SPEAKER BARRETT PRESIDING

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Discussion on the committee amendments to LB 161. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I'm going to speak partly to the committee amendments and also partly to the concept of the bill because if the committee amendments are adopted and the bill progresses, I'm going to have to become a little more outspoken than I am at the present time. I would just suggest at this time I do not believe that we need to pass LB 161 with or without committee amendments. I want to go back a few years. It's very important I think to review the history of this program. It was in the early seventies that the federal government passed a mandated bill that we were to enact certain legislation in compliance with the federal statute which would then "allow Nebraska to manage their own pesticide, rodenticide, herbicide program." It was obvious to us at that time that there was no flexibility left to the State of Nebraska. We could, in fact, make requirements more stringent than the feds, but we could not relax the requirements of the federal law. It was also interesting at that time, as I recall, that the federal government promised us about two-thirds of a million dollars to help implement the bill if we chose to pass it. Nebraska chose not to pass that bill and since that time we have functioned very well without it. We are at the present time, I believe, the only state that has not passed a bill and I would like to suggest that because we did not pass that bill, there is in the state treasury at this time millions of dollars, maybe more than 10 or \$15 million that we would have been required to have expended to implement, supervise, control a program mandated by the federal government. I'm going to say something here that I