

use enforcement, requires the restriction on the uses of these chemicals that the EPA at the current time is very adequately enforcing within this state. I see no good reason that we should create another layer of bureaucracy within the Department of Agriculture and liaison offices within the other agencies to the greater cost to the state unnecessarily. I would join with Senator Schmit in opposing this bill. I voted against it in the committee and will continue to do so. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit, again, on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President and members, I think it's important, I think that Senator Nelson raised a good point and I would just like to remind some of my colleagues that I don't recall how many years I had to take a bill to the Ag Committee when I was chairman of that committee that would regulate the control and disposal of suspended chemicals, suspended economic poisons, chemicals that were no longer being utilized. We finally got that done. I want to point out also that we have enacted into law a number of bills which assist us in maintaining high quality groundwater and which assist us in the protection of the soil and environment. I know that it is especially easy at this time to say Nebraska ought to get in line. Ladies and gentlemen, I would say this, if there is anything to be gained by getting in line I would have been first in line 20 years ago. I don't think anything has been gained. I have told the Environmental Protection Agency, we like what you're doing, we like the way you supervise the program. Ladies and gentlemen, you can count on the fingers of these two hands and chop off the thumbs the number of people that they have involved today in the supervision of this program. And I do not know of any major problem. In fact, I think you could probably do it with one hand. Then I ask you, why do you want to implement a program which is going to cost somewhere in the neighborhood of two-thirds of a million dollars? Oh, yeah, maybe that's a little economic benefit, we're going to hire a bunch of people, put them on the road, add to the traffic count I suppose, but from the standpoint of improving the protection of the soil and water, I suggest that's not going to happen. If the EPA can do it today with a handful of people, and they are satisfied. It's a program mandated by the Congress supervised by the Environmental Protection Agency. Why then should we so-called take charge of the program and then find ourselves under some kind of pressure to increase that personnel, by no