

Elmer had mentioned, that's way too much. If you look at the A bill, it's only about 300,000. So I think this bill needs to have some more work done on it, but I think it's really a step in the right direction, so I think we need to move ahead with the bill though, thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I've had a lot of you come up to me and ask me what is going on here, what direction is this bill taking, are we going to take a lot of time on this bill? You know, a lot of times legislation serves as an educational point as well and I think the important thing, as Senator Schmit indicated earlier, it is important that we discuss what could be a very significant problem for Nebraska and that is groundwater contamination. About a year and a half ago I was approached, and I think Senator Schmit was equally approached by officials from the EPA Office in Kansas City to sit down and talk about FIFRA to try and get an understanding at least as to why Nebraska has rejected the idea of participating in the FIFRA program. And from that discussion I...LB 161 eventually was created, again, to raise the point to talk about what some of the problems Nebraska is confronted with and, as I said earlier, I want this discussion more to be centered on the issue of talking about what is going to happen in the area of groundwater quality in this Legislature in the years to come. LB 161 will not solve the groundwater problems Nebraska is confronted with. This program is mostly designed for educational efforts. It is mostly designed in the area of trying to train both farmers and commercial applicators in the proper use of pesticides so that contamination does not occur. And I think that needs to be the main focus of the discussion here. I did visit with Senator Schmit prior to the session beginning this morning, if his committee would consider if this bill was not advanced today, an interim study. He has consented to do so along with, and I want this to be in the record, there is a bill that Loran and I have worked on. I believe it is LB 1099 that has been introduced in this session, that if this bill does not advance today, that we can use our special protection groundwater districts as a vehicle to do some of the things that this bill is designed to do. It is designed to try and, again, protect the groundwater and I think an important thing is that even under that program, under the bill, we may have more state control than we would if we went this direction. I'm trying to be fair to all sides. Back after I had met with