

February 25, 1991 LB 67

prepare for it. On the other hand, if there is no need, then we need not even probably show any concern. The amendment, as sent to the floor, provides that we've got two years and ten months yet before even the department needs to take a look at whether or not there is a plan for solid waste disposal. Now, there are several questions I could ask. I'm going to ask them and then I'm going to ask someone to answer them on their own time. But I would ask this question, does the plan have to be approved by the Department of Environmental Control prior to December 15 of 1993? I think not, because it says in the amendment that the villages and cities must prepare a plan by December 15 of 1993. Senator Johnson has already indicated his discomfort because there is not a final date. As I read the amendment, if Bellwood, Nebraska submits a plan to the department by December 15, 1993, that says we think we're going to take care of this problem eventually, that's a plan. Now DEC, given all of the resources they have over there, or lack of, will then have to act upon it. They will have about 200 and some, maybe 250 of these plans they must act upon. So I would guess that 20 years from now there will be those on this floor who will be saying we really have to do something about this. I don't know if we need to or not. I know that for many, many years every community along the Platte River bulldozed their garbage into the Platte River and got away with it. Senator Lamb makes an excellent point for his...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...amendment. But I think that we need to recognize that either we do something, or we don't do anything. It's no problem to me if you do not choose to do anything. Those of us who are true environmentalists would support LB 67 in its pristine form. Others, who are more inclined to accommodate the solid waste problem, would probably support the amended version. But I would just suggest this, this bill comes about as close to meeting my criteria as any bill where it helps no one, hurts no one, does nothing. There is one thing that it does have, though, that keeps it from being perfect, and that is it will cost a lot of money. It will cost a lot of money, because you can be sure that there will be a number of attorneys, and engineers, and other consultants who will descend upon the local community...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.