

February 25, 1991 LB 67

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and insist that they begin to draw a plan. And so within two years and ten months, tens of millions of dollars will be spent to prepare plans. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. I'll now recognize Senator Morrissey, followed by Senators Rod Johnson, Pirsch, Cudaback, Hartnett and Beutler. Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Thank you. Madam President, on Senator Lamb's amendment it's...I don't know really what to say on it. It sounds like it's harmless enough, but I think it's already in there on the committee amendments where it says the plan shall be approved by the department and shall address the threat of air, water and land pollution. So, if we go out and study these sites and give the flexibility that the committee amendments is intended to give, that each site plan should be site specific. In other words, we can't tell one town in western Nebraska that they must do the exact same thing that the City of Lincoln or Omaha must do, because that is not the intention of this body. In discussing a state plan last year we discussed flexibility over and over. And it's not the intention of the state plan to just go out and slap regulations on these communities without asking them what is realistic and not just what do you want to do, but what can you do. And that's the intent of the state plan, that's the intent of the amendment, the committee amendments to LB 67. Again, I think this flexibility that Senator Lamb's amendment, that Senator Lamb is trying to add through his amendment, I think it is already there. It has been discussed many times in committee, on the floor last year, and in meetings that have been taking place across the state. As far as LB 67 itself goes, it is not as Senator Schmit characterized it. All of a sudden now we have people wanting to slam the door on these communities. I wanted to address Whitney since I've been in the body, but how to do it was my question. Once you shut the door then what? Will these communities be prepared, yes or no? The answer is, not necessarily now. If you just give them a date to live by and be completely inflexible with them, then you're going to drive them to make a decision that they may not be ready to make. My area, the five county area in southeast Nebraska, has been studying this plan, studying the solid waste problem for 15 months, 15 months, and they're by all the easy stuff, and now they're facing the hard stuff, siting, financing and management, problems that we will be addressing later on this year. I don't think we can tell these communities you're going to close that facility