

February 26, 1991 LB 67

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. We will now proceed to vote on the committee amendments to LB 67. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on the motion to adopt the committee amendments? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 15 nays, Madam President, on the motion to adopt the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The committee amendments are adopted. Do you have a motion on it? We will now proceed to debate the bill itself. Senator Schmit, would you like to open on the bill?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, LB 67 is a bill which I introduced in response to widespread insistence from the usual and customary supporters of an improved environment that it was necessary for this Legislature to repeal what was then and is now properly known as the Whitney amendment. The Whitney amendment ought to be familiar to all of us. For those of you who have not heard of it ought to go back 20 years and read the legislative record which explained in detail many of the arguments that you have heard here today. I remember the eloquence of the professorial type of Senator Whitney who stood on this floor and said that the small communities and villages of this state did not have the resources to comply with the mandates for solid waste disposal that would be required by the Department of Environmental Control, therefore, Senator Whitney convinced his body that we ought to exempt the second class cities and villages from such requirements. Now many of you have lived in Nebraska a long time. Many of you are very familiar with the State of Nebraska. I doubt that any one of you have crisscrossed the state as many times as I have, in a small aircraft as a spray pilot. I have seen dozens, hundreds, thousands of dumpsites; most of them illegal, most of them not identifiable from roadsides or other areas. Many communities established their own dumpsites, lived with them for years. When it became an objectionable item to a farmer they moved it to another area. I have such a dumpsite on a piece of land that I bought a few years ago and I still have difficulty from time to time keeping people from dumping their solid waste on that site, even though it doesn't even resemble a solid waste site anymore today. The force of habit dies hard. Many times during the past 20 years we have discussed the repeal of the Whitney amendment. Many times I have discussed it with cities and villages. Many times I have discussed it with the officials of