

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I know it is early on a Monday morning and it takes a little while to get up to speed, and this is usually a good time to slide something across the board. I really do not know where we are at today with the amendments which have been adopted. I do know this, that over the weekend I have received a number of telephone calls, and I just received two this morning, wanting to know what was the status of LB 67. They had received conflicting reports from lawyers and from other advisors as to whether or not second class cities and villages must close their facilities by a certain deadline or meet certain requirements. The facts are as we know that this morning not very many people on this floor can tell you exactly what needs to be done. If you can do so, you can set yourself up a consulting business and there will be about 200 communities that will contract with you almost immediately. What really bothers me is the phone calls that I received from a city council member, not too far away from here, who had told me that they had made arrangements to contract with a private landfill to haul their solid waste, commonly referred to as garbage, more than 100 miles to a private landfill for a fee of \$6 per month per household, not a bad figure as far as I can tell from some of the costs that have been kicked around on this floor. Now because they have been told that apparently the deadline has been extended and the sudden death syndrome portion of the bill, which I had introduced, is no longer there, that they don't need to worry about doing anything. And so this council is now in a position where a majority of them have said we might just as well wait. There is no point in doing anything. The Natural Resources Committee heard a variety of bills last week relative to solid waste disposal, a whole number of alternatives, a lot of ideas, most of them well-intentioned, most of them also very difficult, expensive to implement, some of them perhaps impossible to implement. This Legislature needs to decide, if we are going to make a decision today or soon, as to what do you want to do with solid waste in Nebraska. Now if we continue the course which we have pursued thus far, with the amendments that have been adopted to LB 67, now I predict that nothing will really seriously happen with the second class cities and villages for a long period of time. Second, some of the bills that have been introduced that have suggested that imposition of serious and confiscatory penalties on the transportation acceptance of solid waste will, in fact, stop development of such facilities at least by private developers. I've discussed it with several