

Senator Schmit, maybe the date is out too far, but maybe the federal government will come down in the meantime and help speed up the process. And I did support Senator Schmit the other day on his amendment, original amendment, opposite of Senator Morrissey's, but I think maybe, and this is my first year on the Natural Resources Committee, I think maybe this will be the most important piece of legislation that comes out this year from our committee because it has given the small communities or a time .a definite time line and will start the process of them starting to have to look at their problem of solid waste. So with that, I support Senator Johnson's amendment and advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, or Madam President, excuse me, Madam President and members of the body, we have some difficult decisions to make this session. I know that the tax issue is great but, also, I believe that issues such as this are very important to us. I think that Senator Rod Johnson has brought an amendment to us that I certainly can live with, and I know that some of these small communities, some of these small towns, small counties, have a lot of open dumps that they are using. But I think we do need to put a deadline on those, when they should come into compliance or when they should close them. So I believe that a few years down the road is okay. I realize that the Natural Resources Committee has a lot of tough problems. We have a lot of bills dealing with dumps and solid waste disposal sites, also with the low-level radioactive waste sites, and I believe some of our problems are just as great in these small solid waste sites as they could be with the low-level radioactive waste site, and so I plan on supporting the Rod Johnson amendment and then also supporting the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Call the question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: No one else is wishing to speak on the issue, so I will ask Senator Johnson for closing.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Thank you, Madam Chair. As has been explained, and I don't think there is any opposition, this bill does put in or this amendment to the bill does put a date