

favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We're voting on the committee amendments. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now go to Senator Rod Johnson on the bill.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I think we have explained the bill as it has now been amended. So, unless there are questions, I guess I will just with...or hold my comments till closing.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Discussion on the bill. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, it's difficult to vote against this bill. It is extremely difficult to speak about the bill in a negative manner, because industry wants the bill very much and industry has a problem. We all recognize that problem. This...let us take it in this proper sequence. Frequently, the size of a problem is determined by the amount of the money that's available to address it. And I want to point out that for many years we have had these units in the State of Nebraska, petroleum stations, and we have had, of course, a leak from time to time, and from time to time, there have been some serious leaks and they have been cleaned up. But, all of a sudden, because of federal legislation, we suddenly decide, and I was in the position where I had to make that decision, that we had a state problem and we attempted to address it, and we worked for many, many hours and many, many weeks and months with the industry to try to resolve the problem. Let me tell you what the principal concern was, who is going to pay the bill. Well, of course, it is obvious, they said, the cost of cleanup, in many instances, is far greater than the individual can afford. So we've got to have some sort of a way to raise some money to create a fund, and we did. And we allowed generously the consumer to be a major contributor to that clean-up fund. We also threw in, as through the tank proposal, a small contribution from the individual station operator. Then, because we thought they ought to make a contribution toward the clean-up fund, we said they've got to pay the first 25,000. Not a major problem for someone who pumps tens of millions of gallons of fuel annually. A total obstacle to those small