

relates to the certification of backhoe people is almost none of that expense; a few dollars maybe, a few cents probably. And it's my understanding, from the fire marshal's office, that there is not a problem with the distribution of people who are qualified to do this across the state. Maybe Senator Schmit has some information in this regard that would be of interest to the fire marshal's office. But I would ask that you think carefully about whether this is a real problem, or whether we're just striking out now at our frustration with regard to the whole idea of government regulation, and whether there might not be some valid argument there that for the safety of the people involved in this operation they ought to go through the process of taking a very simple test ensuring that they know about the possibilities of danger. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schmit, yours is the only other light on, do you want this to be your closing, or...?

SENATOR SCHMIT: That will be fine, yes, Senator.

SPEAKER BAACK: Okay.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I just want to say this. I appreciate the comments of Senator Withem and Senator Beutler. Let me point out that 250 versus 2,500 is a substantial amount of money, maybe a small percentage of \$100,000 but a 100,000 here and a 100,000 there, a 1,000 here and a 1,000 there, isn't necessary. The language was not in the statute when we passed the original statute. Senator Withem and Senator Beutler did not find it necessary to require examination and licensure at the time we passed the original bill. By rule and regulation, our fire marshal, who is a nice guy, he used to sit on this floor, he's had tenure over there for a long time, he's survived a whole series of governors, and he's a...I think he's a fine fire marshal, and I don't blame him for doing what he did. But we ought to be on record here of deciding whether or not we want Wally to write the rules and regs and the statutes or do we do it, number one. Number two, it's a simple test, we've been told. I have proposed from time to time a simple test for teachers to find out if they know what they're teaching, and a simple test for students to find out if they know what they've been taught. And I've been told you can't test them, you can't test for those things. But you can have a simple test for a backhoe operator. Ladies and gentlemen, if it's a simple test,