

CLERK: Mr. President, just a couple of items. Senator Conway has amendments to be printed to LB 579.

Mr. President, an announcement, Government Committee will hold exec session at eleven o'clock in the Senate Lounge; Government Committee, Senate Lounge, eleven o'clock.

And Senator Elmer has amendments to be printed, Mr. President, to LB 126. (See page 1256 of the Legislative Journal.) That's all that I have.

SPEAKER BAACK: We will proceed to item number 9 on the agenda, General File and LB 409.

CLERK: Mr. President, 409 was discussed yesterday. The committee amendments were adopted, as was an amendment by Senator Johnson to the committee amendments. Senator Morrissey had an amendment to the committee amendments, Senator Beutler, Senator Schmit. We left the bill, Mr. President, with an amendment pending by Senator Wehrbein. It is on Journal page 1205.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you like to explain your amendment so we know exactly where we're at on this bill.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, I would, Mr. President and members. Before maybe some wander off, I'd like to explain briefly what we have done. We had an amendment yesterday by Senator Beutler that would have raised the fees put upon individual businesses and other users of bulk tanks, buried bulk tanks. I admit originally I voted for the bill because I read it initially as a 5 percent increase in '94 and then a 10 percent increase in '99. In fact, it is a progressive billing that adds 5 percent each year up until '99 and then 10 percent after that. I feel that is much too progressive in its nature and adding to our small businesses and other users of bulk tanks buried underground, and I have moved to strike this particular part of the bill. At presently, it is 75 plus the 25, the fire marshal's office. I think that is adequate at this time. I'm not opposed in the long term of looking at this fee and perhaps raising it but I think it is much too aggressive. It did not come out of the committee this way. It came out at a reasonable level, I feel. I don't think we realize how much burden we're going to be putting on especially small business and once again, users of