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LB 409

ought to be charged for the simple purpose of removing and excavating soil and hauling it away. What is even more interesting is this, and that is that we have today a system out there which is not really protecting the public. If an individual has a deep pocket,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...if there's money in the pocket, if there's money in the bank, then we go out and clean it up. But I can show you an example a few miles from my home where there was supposed to be a bad spill, a bad case of contamination, and it was going to require a lot of money to fix it up. All of a sudden, it's not even being mentioned anymore, going to be a road built on top of it, and no one is going to say boo. Now, ladies and gentlemen, if the contamination was so bad when a private individual was responsible for it, why is it suddenly not bad at all when it's the Department of Roads that is going to build a road over the top of it? One of the big things we have on this floor is that we continually try to protect everyone from everything else. In the process, we are going to bankrupt the system. I don't know what you need to do to meet...to be halfway. Senator Withem said he would try...he tried to go halfway, I think it would be possible...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to go halfway, to require the installers to have certification, but allow the backhoe operator not to be certified, which is the way it is now. But the facts are that licensed, certified operators are lying to local people, they're lying to the businessmen, and they're increasing the cost. It does not need to be done. We have set up a little chair here, a little...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...a little group all by themselves who are milking the public, and we ought not to allow it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Further discussion. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Are there other lights on?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Schmit's light is on again.