

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. We will now go to Senator Robak.

SENATOR ROBAK: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I just have a question, just so I get this straight in my mind, to either Senator Johnson or Senator Beutler. Do we have a deadline for this EPA regulation?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Well, I think that the EPA may rule yet this summer. We are trying to meet that deadline but...

SENATOR ROBAK: Somehow I have April 26th of 1991, is that not correct?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I could find out for sure but I do know that there is a deadline...maybe not a deadline but a time frame which we are trying to meet to get this fund. Obviously, even if this bill passes in its present form today, it will be very difficult to get the fund up to a level which may...the EPA may rule that they find our fund to be acceptable. But I think what we are trying to show here, at least with the passage of this bill, if it does pass this year, is good faith in the State of Nebraska that we are willing to address our fund and how we are going to support it, and we think, as it is written at this particular moment, that EPA probably will accept it.

SENATOR ROBAK: But if they don't have proof, then what would happen to the tank operator, will they be able to operate or are they going to shut down for the most part?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: I have a hard time believing they will shut us down.

SENATOR ROBAK: They will just extend it then. Because that is the reason that I did choose this for my priority bill because I really was concerned about the small communities and, to some of them, \$25,000 is a lot of money in my district. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Robak. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, again, I would just like to say this. Do you really want to clean the problem up? Or do you really just