

first four rows don't have a senator sitting in them. And I don't know how you get 25 votes out of nothing. Pardon me, Senator Nelson, you are hiding behind your bill books. Usually you are very...well, you are volatile and I don't have to look for you. But the point is that you can't get 25 votes out of nothing, and that is, basically, what we are looking at. We are looking at a very small group of people on this floor, trying to secure 25 votes, and you really can't do it. That is not equity, ladies and gentlemen, for the taxpayer, and it is not equity for the operator. It is not equity for anyone. I would hope that there are those of you who are in your offices, that regardless of how you feel, that you will come back to the floor and you will cast your vote either for or against the amendment so that you can be on record, and as we proceed, and as Senator Johnson and others offer amendments on this bill, if they do, that we know more accurately what the public really...what the Legislature really feels about this bill. I know that I am concerned about the size of the fund being too large because we all know that any time you create a fund with tax money it attracts those individuals who want to get their dipper in the bucket, the larger the fund, the bigger the dipper, and the more guys wanting to get into it, and that could happen. I hope that we watch it closely, I am sure we will. But even then, there probably will be abuse, but, ladies and gentlemen, the abuse will not come from the small operator. The abuse will come above the \$25,000, and Mr. Barnett told me about a clean-up crew that wanted to charge three or four times as much for soil removal as was probably considered to be fair. That is where the abuse will come, ladies and gentlemen, above the 25,000, not below. Remember, above the 25,000, the ky is the limit, and if someone comes in and I have got to pay the 25 grand, then I just as well have you scrub the thing up with a toothbrush...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...and clean it up with a teaspoon, if it is going to enhance my operation and make my situation that much better in the future. So when the real dipping will come into the bucket is once the fund kicks in, ladies and gentlemen, not prior to that time. So long as the operator has contributed any part of that money, I am sure it will help monitor the expenditures so that it is not wasteful. But above the 25,000, ladies and gentlemen, it will be Katy bar the door, and from that time on, I am afraid, that we are not going to have a good handle on it. And I would hope that sometime someone on this