

Senator Beutler, if...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I would take just a minute, Mr. Speaker, to point out the other handout that I've passed out. You might be interested in taking a look at it. It was put together by some of the insurance carriers and shows you, basically, what they are offering insurance for, and you can see on here for a \$10,000, what are we at now, we are at a \$5,000 deductible. Now we have expanded the coverage, so if we were dealing with a \$5,000 deductible, an operator who had six tanks or less, and assuming those tanks were 10 years old or less, would be paying about \$2,000 for an insurance premium, which is roughly, for coverage, which is roughly equivalent to what they are getting under our socialized fund. Now compare that \$2,000 to \$75 per tank, so if you had three tanks, for example, you would be paying \$225 for something that is worth about \$2,000. The rest of it is being funded by the public. This chart, I think, will give you an idea of just, an idea of the scale of the subsidy that is being provided, and now that you are broadening the coverages once again, I think you'll want to think real seriously about who is picking up this cost, and how, eventually, we can get back to a nonsubsidized system. I'd be glad to answer your questions.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Wehrbein.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I am having trouble digesting. Would you offer your version of how this would be compared to the one that we defeated the other day where the five for the 10 percent is? As I read this, this would be probably more progressive than that was.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I think that is a fair assumption, Senator Wehrbein, that it would be more progressive, and the reason that I put it in this form and the reason that it is more progressive is because I finally realized, in terms of insurance premiums, what kind of a subsidy we are talking about here. I mean, we are talking about a subsidy that is 95 percent of the cost. And so in order to get back to a private enterprise system in a period of 20 years, these are the kind of increases you have to look at. Now the increases are substantial, but the benefits that are being given now are tremendous.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Okay, thank you. I am uncertain. It seems like this is still pretty severe, and I am not prepared to