

down. About the time you think you've got one put to bed why something comes along again. And I congratulate Senator Rod Johnson, but, Rod, I don't think you done quite as good a job as Senator Withem did and I really cannot support your amendment. I want to call attention to the fact again that the real drain on this fund is not going to be from 5,000 to 25,000. The real drain is going to be above the 25,000. And what you are doing here is saying that the small operator who survives by his wits and hard work and endurance out in the country is going to have to go three-fifths of the way with the major operator. I don't think that's equitable. I don't know if it's equitable at all, as I said earlier, that the consumer pays this thing, but the consumer is doing it. We went that route previously. I wasn't comfortable when I introduced the bill. I'm not comfortable with it today but we went that way. If we're going to do that, if we have a responsibility to go above the 25,000 to the million, then I think we need to take a look also at keeping some sort of equity for the small operator. To do what Senator Rod Johnson has proposed and say that the Aldrich Service Station at Dwight, Nebraska, which is there strictly as a service to the local community, ought to pay three-fifths of the cost that a major truck stop does on the interstate or on the highway, I don't think that's equitable at all. I don't see how anyone can argue that it's equitable. It does not fulfill the original intent of the bill. And Senator Robak had a clipping from a year ago which I think highlights exactly what we're talking about here. It says many small stations will be forced to close. That's exactly the opposite of what we wanted to do. We wanted to keep those stations open. Now if you're going to make them pay 15,000, that's not equitable, it isn't fair. It may not be fair the other way but it is not fair this way, I will tell you that. Most of all, it's a matter of can you do it. Fifteen thousand dollars is going to be beyond the reach of most of those stations and I think we ought to recognize that. We are...this is not...we are not talking, ladies and gentlemen, about discretionary income. We are not talking about the fact that they're going to have \$10,000 less left when they pay this than they were previously. We're talking about the ability to do it. Do they have the ability to pay the 15,000? Drive down those small country roads, my colleagues, and check it out. Find out how many of them can do it. Put yourself in that position. How many of you here today can sit down today and write a check out for 15 grand and keep on doing business just as you would before? Not very many of us. There are some who can. Ladies and gentlemen, the large station can pay the 25,000