

introduced the first bill, I do not know if it is good state policy to embark upon this kind of a philosophy where the consumer, in fact, does the cleanup for the industry. But we did embark upon it, and we are attempting to do several things. We're attempting to solve a problem, we're attempting to protect the environment, and we're attempting to limit the liability of certain individuals who operated legally and honestly for many, many years without any indication whatsoever that there might, in the future, be an obligation levied against their enterprise. It has happened too many times during my 23 years in the Legislature that this Legislature, sometimes well-intentioned, and sometimes otherwise, has enacted into law statutes which then are extremely damaging or adversarial to business. We have in the State of Nebraska, no doubt, dozens of stations similar to the one described by Senator Morrissey's constituent. Many of them, of course, are not going to serve us until after this session has adjourned again. And there may be particular circumstances that surround each of them. When we picked the 250,000 gallons, we just picked it out of the air. We originally had gone 250, 500, 750 in a stage, incremental kind of development. We decided to lower the cost of the fund by stopping at 250,000, and I recognize that in this instance that may be a very, very serious problem for this particular individual. I believe it's important that we recognize, and I'm trying to find Senator Baack to determine whether or not we want to spend...how much time we want to spend on this bill at this day, at this time. But I agree with Senator Morrissey, and I think Senator Johnson probably would concur that we need to be reassured, prior to the time that we print this bill for Final Reading, regardless of where the level is at that requires reimbursement, that all other aspects of the bill are resolved. It is not Senator Johnson's fault, or anyone else's fault, it is a complicated issue, and there are many other factors that need to be brought forward so that all aspects of the bill do function. But I think that in order that we protect the public to the best of our ability, that we ought to know those questions...the answers to those questions as thoroughly as possible. I want to point out one more problem. There are sources of contamination, and there are contaminated areas which fall outside the purview of station contamination. Some of that will need to be cleaned up. And I can tell you, very frankly, that we don't have a fund for most of that, but we're going to have an impact upon businesses as we proceed in this direction. Many of our grain elevators may have a problem of carbon tetrachloride, and when that happens I would expect that we will