

have such a few days remaining in the legislative session, and I'm not very proud of it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Nelson. Before I proceed to the next speaker, I would like to make note of the fact that Bob Tagg is in the back of the Chamber, after he is recovering, and we are glad to see you here. Senator Rod Johnson, do you wish to address the Pirsch amendment?

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make my comments as brief as possible. I support the Pirsch amendment with the passage of Senator Ashford's amendment. I think it is logical to look at the fact that there could be composting plants just on the outskirts of our state border. Recognizing the unique relationship between Omaha and Council Bluffs being one of those, I think it is only sensible that we include this language that Senator Pirsch has offered. I would, however, like to get at the heart of the matter. This issue was brought to the Legislature by myself to address a growing interest in the marketplace of developing products that are compostable. It is not my intent, even though there are those who are arguing here today that there is some rationale behind this bill as to undo what Senator Hefner did through LB 325. I think I believe very sincerely that composting is a very important component in our whole process of dealing with solid waste in Nebraska. All this bill was originally attempting to do was add the language or definition of what is compostable and what is composting into the whole study that the DEC is doing as they look at biodegradability, as they look at compostability in their study, to see whether or not there are products, specifically diapers, that can be marketed in Nebraska, that can be utilized by our consumers in an environmentally safe manner. That was really all the intent of the bill was trying to do, but there has been a lot of discussed or rumors circulating that the bill is somehow trying to undo what Senator Hefner was trying to do through his bill. What we did through passage of LB 325 was basically say we're going to mandate what is available to the consumer in this state, specifically diapers. We're going to say to the consumers that only these type of diapers can be offered for sale in Nebraska if they are within a certain price range with other types of diapers. That decision has to be made by the director. That's not made by the Legislature. It's made by the director, who will then give us his response after the study is complete. What we are trying to do with this bill is say, okay, if there is a diaper out there that is