

some response. And perhaps we should start out with the question of, what sense does it make to attach a special levy to those who are causing the problem? I am also the sponsor, this year, of a bill that brings Nebraska's laws up-to-date, as required under federal law and the Federal Clean Air Act. And the new provisions under that particular bill are going to hit hard at some urban companies, and they're going to hit hard at some Lincoln companies. And I think you'll find that when that debate comes up Chris Beutler is going to be saying the same thing, that those Lincoln companies who are causing the pollution should bear primarily, if not exclusively, the burden of cleaning up their act. Now let's make one distinction here when we're talking about this situation, too, let's...we've had some talk about the past, and we've had some talk about...but let's talk about the future and whether what we're doing addresses the past or the future. Controlling groundwater pollution from this point on is not remedial action. It's not cleaning up what we did bad in the past, natural occurrences, natural time, nature itself is going to have to clean that up. What we are doing is preventing future pollution, preventing future pollution, and the question is, who should bear the burden of preventing future pollution? Are you going to expect your sales and income tax dollars to be used to put smokestacks on Lincoln companies to stop the pollution? I don't think so. And, likewise, I don't think the city people expect that they're going to pay their sales and income tax dollars to allow nitrate pollution to continue to go on. I'm in an unfortunate position here, because I don't feel that I'm antirural at all, in fact, I have a great affection for certain areas of this state, especially Richardson County. But the fact of the matter is that Nebraska's biggest industry is agriculture. In Ohio their biggest industry is something else and, because that something else is what causes the pollution, there, too, you must direct your attack. In Nebraska agriculture is our big industry. And so if we want a state that's in equilibrium with our environment, then we must address agriculture. And agriculture must address it themselves. I continue to hear denial on the floor today, and I don't think that scientifically denial is a legitimate position today. The application of nitrates and atrazine by farmers, fertilizers and in pesticides is causing pollution in many areas around the state, and there just is no doubt about it. Now to come in here with a bill and say we totally absolve those people who are doing that is the very worst message you could give this state, it's the very worst message you could give the farmers of this state, it is out of