

February 3, 1992 LB 349

SENATOR ROGERS: The Department of Agriculture, if you listened, is what we hope would be the lead agency. They will contract with some of the agencies you are talking about, but we felt like the Department of Ag, the committee felt and quite a few of the members felt that they should be the lead agency, but they will be contracting with these other agencies when they develop this plan. The Department of Ag will be the agency that cuts all their checks. We think maybe that gives us some control over some of the comments you've heard that this bill could skyrocket, the fiscal note could skyrocket. As long as the Department of Ag are the ones that will cut the checks of whatever agency is involved in this act.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. And this bill deals with what are called economic poisons, pesticides that if not applied properly lead to the degradation of the environment, I guess, whether it is ground...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...or water, more importantly water. It does not apply to fertilizers, does it?

SENATOR ROGERS: We have heard...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Or does it?

SENATOR ROGERS: It could apply to some of the groundwater...it could apply to nitrogen, I am sure of that, and I can't answer that for sure, Senator, but I am sure the management plan for the groundwater, and we've probably heard more about nitrates in water, especially down the Platte Valley, in the area where I live, we have heard about numerous wells, but, specifically, I will have to get that question answered, Senator.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I guess my concern with it would that it be inclusive because you and I well know that the main economic poison that we are dealing with right now doesn't happen to be one that is applied to get rid of insects, it is applied to enhance the growth of our grain crops.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you, sir.