

experienced at. The DEC doesn't go out to all the...all of these places on any kind of a regular basis, and they're not, you know, they're involved with business and industry and many, many other things, let alone this additional one that fits the Department of Agriculture quite well. I would say that the Agriculture Committee has been very wise in picking the Department of Agriculture. We've worked with it for a long time, and it's the type of administration that fits there better than anywhere else, and especially with the ties with the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska, who does administer parts of this FIFRA program for the federal government at this point, which I would assume would stay in place under a state agent...under the state. And the Department of Agriculture looks to me to be the very best and most economical place to put that authority. The DEC has more than it can handle now. And I'd ask you to reject this amendment by Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Beutler, did you wish to speak further on your amendment?

SENATOR BEUTLER: No, Mr. President, unless there...if there are other speakers, I do not.

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, there are other lights on. Senator Rod Johnson, to the Beutler amendment.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, my comments will be brief, very brief. I oppose the amendment. I understand the logic that Senator Beutler brings to this particular issue. I would add to his comments, or maybe the concerns that he raises through this amendment, that I did speak with some personnel from the Department of Agriculture, and they have been in consultation with the DEC. And it's my understanding that they may bring amendments on Select File, if this bill should move today, to basically address maybe part of the concerns that some folks have of the fact that there's a feeling that maybe we're creating another agency or another program in another agency, and there will be some duplication. I guess the lar...the main point I'd like to make is that, for those that are paying attention, I've got to search back in my memory, but it seems to me out of the 49 other states that implement FIFRA in their states, I think 40 is a safe bet, but I think it was 40 states house the FIFRA program in their Department of Agriculture. The overwhelming choice of other states has been in the Department