

exactly all bad. Tells you something about the amendment. Now I want to say this, if the amendment as drafted is adopted, without the Beutler amendment, it is safe to say that the State of Nebraska is going from a strict regulatory agency, the Environmental Protection Agency at the federal level, to one which is at least cooperative with the group that they want to regulate. Now I have no particular problem with that. I have no particular problem with that because, as I said, the Department of Agriculture is, of course, going to be more understanding, going to be more lenient, more tolerant of abuses that take place than is going to be the DEC. Now if you want a program that protects the quality of water, you have to decide who do you want to regulate it. I think it's entirely logistically possible for the Department of Agriculture to handle the registration, the distribution, the labeling, the inspection, the pesticides and all the chemicals, and for DEC to be responsible for groundwater quality. But I do not believe this amendment does it. And Senator Rod Johnson indicates that maybe on Select File we will have an amendment that will more clearly delineate the responsibilities. Well, ladies and gentlemen, I would suggest that the best thing to do would be if you're going to pass the bill that General File is where the debate takes place. And General File is where we ought to make those decisions. If we don't do it here, we're not going to do it on Select File. And it is not too easy for me to understand how we can advance the amendment today and in the course of several, more days come back with some additional amendments which we hope will take care of delineation of authority. What I am afraid will happen is this, that once this bill becomes law the implementation will take place, the individuals will be hired, well-intentioned individuals, quality individuals I'm sure, qualified individuals. They will begin to operate. But as soon as they get into the field, they will run into differing areas of responsibility. And at that time, without delineation of responsibility...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...carefully outlined in the bill, we will have difficulty. As I said before, had I brought this amendment to the body, it would be deplored as one more Schmit attempt to lessen the regulatory protection of our groundwater and its quality. But in the manner which it has been brought to you today, it is being embraced. Ladies and gentlemen, if a problem exists, then we ought to address it in a responsible manner. If