

government particularly charged with the responsibility of the protection of Nebraska's soil and water and air. I think that they could do it very well. I think that it's important and I know that a meeting that I attended last Friday where there were six or seven senators and about 30 other people there, some of them from agencies, some of them lobbyists, the question was raised as to why it couldn't be handled in this manner, that the Legislature approve the plan. Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is basically what we are facing today relative to a tax plan. The Legislature is being called upon to approve the 3-R tax plan developed by a group of well-intentioned individuals who worked very diligently. The facts are that those of us from agriculture ought to recognize that the votes are here today to approve a plan recommended by the Department of Environmental Control. They will be here a year from now. The major difference is this, that the local supervision, the local monitoring, the local control is going to shift from Natural Resource Districts to the Department of Environmental Control. I do not know what kind of staff it will take to handle that but I think that you ought to recognize, you ought to recognize what we are doing.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: You are...you are giving to DEC the responsibility, the responsibility for the development and implementation of any groundwater quality management plan relating to economic poisons. Don't come back later on and say, it was never intended that the DEC be this stringent or outlaw this chemical or that fertilizer or any other chemi...any other kind of element. Don't say that. Because what we are doing here is very specifically in plain language giving that authority to the department. Now someone says that we have to approve it. Well, ladies and gentlemen, amendment 349 (sic) doesn't do anything, it doesn't say anything. I think Mr. Ptacek explained at the meeting we had Friday it would have been a 70 or 80-page bill to have come in with a comprehensive plan and it was unrealistic to expect us to buy that kind of a plan...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...during this session. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Before we proceed to