

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Senator Schmit, followed by Senator Morrissey.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Madam President and members, it costs about \$800 million annually to pay teachers in the State of Nebraska, and that, of course, is an item which we discuss at great length, and we are all for teachers, but we just aren't in support of the money it takes to pay them. We are all for the ideas embodied in LB 1059, but we didn't have the nerve to come up with the money to fully fund it. We are all for supplemental teachers salaries, but we have been looking under every rock and behind every tree and every guidepost to try to find a few million dollars to supplement teachers' salaries. If there is anything that is important to us without exception, this body would agree it is the education of our children and nothing is more important to the education of a child than the teacher who has face to face classroom contact. That is a given. And no one will argue with those statements, I am sure. Now we are about to embark upon a proposal of solid waste disposal, and it is one which is, again, mandated by the federal government, and Senator Scotty Moore sent around this morning, I believe, the idea of mandated costs from federal government and their impact upon local governments. As I pointed out, Butler County said, nuts, we don't want to run a landfill anymore, we will let someone else do it, and take the heat for it, and let the public pay the bill. My concern is this, that as of now we are buying a program on which we do not have a price tag. Now bear in mind, I do not blame the Department of Environmental Control or Quality, whichever you want to call it. I don't blame the EPA. I don't blame anyone else. I do question whether or not all of the requirements for the establishment of a landfill are justified. We recently received payment for Bruno, Nebraska, for the drilling of a new well that had been contaminated by carbon tetrachloride via USDA bin site, and I want to say that I discussed with that analyst, two of the very finest gentlemen, the most courteous gentlemen I ever met in Washington, D.C., Mr. Jim Hansen and Mr. Alex (phonetic), and they said we have no quarrel with paying for the drilling of new wells which we have contaminated, but what we do not want to do is to pay unnecessary legal expenses and unnecessary engineering costs, both of which are usually extravagant. And I guess as we discuss this bill, I would like to ask Senator Morrissey and Senator Rod Johnson to explain, how do we know that the requirements that are embodied in the bill, relative to the