

April 9, 1992

LB 1122, 1257

Fees used to regulate clean air from that source, and those fees not for other sources. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. Senator Beutler, you're next. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, just to clear some things up. I know there's some confusion by members on the floor as to what we are doing here. Specifically what Senator Beutler is offering is the contents, primarily, of LB 1122, which is the bill that he introduced before the committee, came out of the committee, became a committee priority bill. I think Senator Morrissey and Senator Beutler have touched upon the fact that this is a federal program that the states must administer. If we choose not to do it, we lose the funds. The funds, if we collect them, we get to keep them, but if we do not we are going to be forced to collect them and then send them on to the federal government. So it is to our behest, I guess, to...to carry out the program, because the money will at least stay in Nebraska. As Senator Beutler's amendment is now written, it is agreed upon by those affected industries that would be regulated under this Clean Air Act, they have agreed to the fees, or the level of the fee and the cap of 4,000 tons per year. I think that's a reasonable approach to this issue. And if you look back on the committee statement relative to LB 1122, you can see that the power industry in this state, and others came forward and agreed that something needs to be done in this area. This is an attempt to address it in 1992, as opposed to waiting until 1993. So I know some have some misgivings with the idea of putting this on this bill at this time. I certainly don't want to jeopardize LB 1257 and its purpose. It's a judgment call, I guess, by Senator Morrissey to decide whether or not to let this be attached. But it is a program that I think will either...adopt now, or we'll adopt within a year or two, because we're going to be forced to accept it as we do with many of the other federal mandates that have come down from Congress.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Rod Johnson. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman, members, how much money will this raise, annually, from the generators? Does someone know? Senator Morrissey, do you know?

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Morrissey.