

March 7, 1973

SENATOR SYAS: Well, he's around here someplace because I saw him earlier.

SPEAKER: Stand by.

SENATOR SYAS: That's an important point, Senator Whitney, and I'd like to have it fairly answered.

SPEAKER: The chair next recognizes Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, in regard to...Senator Syas, what was your direct question to Senator Schmit? Maybe, I can help.

SPEAKER: Here comes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR ANDERSON: Senator Syas, what question did you have of Senator Schmit? Maybe, I can help.

SENATOR SYAS: Senator Whitney's question...I don't. Senator Whitney's question, I believe, was are all County Boards going to be forced to make regulations? Isn't that it, of air pollution and I told him I couldn't tell him that for sure. I don't know.

SENATOR ANDERSON: It's my understanding after our meeting in Douglas county the other night concerning Douglas county's suggested ordinance that would cover air quality control over the county and Mr. Higgins of our State Environmental Control Council was in attendance, and I think everybody here and particularly you rural Senators should be well aware that, if my interpretation is correct, that if we repeal the Wyoming clause, and this is a highly emotional thing and it appears likely that it will be repealed, that no farm...then the state will be required by...or can be required...or will require all counties to have an ordinance and if they don't, the state control council will then take over. And we are talking about agricultural burning, and I don't think agricultural burning is as important an issue as defining what is agricultural. Very few of us burn crop residues anymore. On rare occasions you do. You need to burn down trees if you are clearing land. But the point I want to make is, your farmstead is not agricultural burning. If you want to clean up some rubbish, if you want to rake the leaves in your yard, if you want to rake up the twigs after a summer windstorm, you will not be allowed to burn this under any circumstances even with a permit. You will be required to haul it off to whatever dump is provided or hire it hauled off, and I think that this thing should really be considered, and Senator Schmit is back now. Maybe he could add to this a little bit, but I...after our little meeting in Douglas county the other night, I am very concerned about the blame that is being put on rural America to enforce these kinds of regulations concerning air quality when rural America is really not contributing to air pollution to a degree that's serious at all. It was brought out the other night that one jet taking off from the Omaha airport will create more pollution than all the backyard burning in the county in a good long time. Well, obviously, you can't stop jets or you would have to stop air travel, but here from a federal level on down they are attempting to enforce regulations on the little man because they can get the job done. Senator Schmit, you might have something to add to this. Thank you.

SPEAKER: Senator Schmit, do you care to respond?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, first of all, I just spoke with Mr. Stuevies in Omaha and he insists that we do not need 194. This is the reason I voted against the bill in Committee because they had requested that we would not do anything with 194 until they determined