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LB 853

disposal of hazardous wastes. There has been some concern expressed by many groups within this state that there has been no designated disposal area, that there has been no designated procedure for the disposal of hazardous wastes nor the collection thereof. There has been of course some interest by the federal government in this area. This bill, however, did not originate from that impetus. It was a bill drafted by the committee in cooperation with our own Department of Environmental Control. We have visited with the Environmental Protection Agency in Kansas City. They do support the concept. They felt that perhaps the bill did not go quite as far as they would have liked but at the present time the bill is a major step in the control of hazardous wastes and provides our own Department of Environmental Control with substantial authority for the regulation and supervision and monitoring of hazardous waste disposal. That is basically what the bill does. I believe it is a reasonable bill and a good bill and one which the body should advance. I would be glad to answer any questions. We do have some technical amendments which we need to offer a little later on.

PRESIDENT: All right, Mr. Clerk, I think we will take up the amendments if that constitutes Senator Schmit's explanation of the bill.

CLERK: Yes, sir. Mr. President, the first amendment is by Senator Venditte. That is on page 1032 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Venditte.

CLERK: (Read Venditte amendment as found on page 1032 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR VENDITTE: Thank you, Mr. Clerk and members of the Legislature, I think it is rather obvious to all of us here today that the disposition of solid waste today in America certainly is a problem. It is a problem in the State of Nebraska and it is a problem in the City of Omaha. It is unfortunate that in the planning and the daily operation of these particular facilities, they are within throwing distance of where people live. Sometimes I think it is difficult for us to understand the kind of living conditions that many people are exposed to today. Can you imagine if you lived across the street from a sewage treatment plant? We have a sewage treatment plant in the City of Omaha, ladies and gentlemen, and since 1958 we have spent, yes, we taxpayers have spent in excess of \$54,000,000 in the plant itself and of course approximately one sixth of that particular figure was spent by the Omaha taxpayers. Now