

government is cutting back on the conservation activities to the states and it is going to be important that we pick this up here in the State of Nebraska. And I want this body to recognize it is important and the only way we can do this is by earmarking these funds. Now if things will change as time goes on and we can do away with it and we are assured that the funds are going for the different organizations that we are saying that this bill should go for, I would be all for it. But at the present time I can see a great need of the conservation activities that are necessary in the State of Nebraska and that the funds are really needed to keep this thing going and protect the real resource that is the State of Nebraska, our land and our water. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. Clerk, do you have an amendment to the amendments?

CLERK: Mr. President, I do, indeed, have an amendment to the committee amendments. That is offered by Senator DeCamp.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator John DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, this would change the 4 percent in Vard's amendment to 1 percent and it may or may not be a good amendment. I think it is probably a good amendment but I need to understand I guess the system of tax collection and how it functions so I can make a more judicious judgment as to whether I should forge ahead on this amendment and try to save the state money or whether I should wait till Select File and forge ahead. So the question I have, and maybe Senator Johnson could answer it best, who does collect this tax and how is it done and what are the statistical data we have available that shows us what it actually costs so that we know your amendment or my amendment is reasonable or unreasonable, right or wrong? And how is it we have apparently a private company collecting the tax rather than the normal system? Can you explain the system to me?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I can, Senator DeCamp. We have a lot of private companies in Nebraska that collect our taxes. We have oil and gas wholesalers that collect our taxes. We have a lot of grocery stores...well, not grocery stores