

Legislature, Senator Eret is sort of trafficking in a touchy area and that is that we have had a very, very hard time over the last 10, 15 years collecting...we've had a very difficult time with something known as special fuel and special fuel is fuel that is in the main used by farmers for agricultural purposes and it is diesel fuel. It is diesel fuel. Well as you know that type of fuel, because it is used for agricultural purposes, does not bear a gas tax. It doesn't bear a gas tax. So what happens however, is that the farmer buys diesel fuel, puts diesel fuel in the tank that he has on the farmstead and he doesn't pay the taxes because it doesn't bear tax because it is a special fuel and he then uses that fuel for his farm machinery and farm equipment. No problem, but with the advent of diesel engines for pickup trucks and even diesel engines for automobiles we are discovering a fair drain on our regular gas tax because those farmers, not being unsophisticated, are backing their pickup trucks and their Oldsmobiles with the diesel engines in them to their tanks and they are putting untaxed diesel in their trucks and their Oldsmobiles and they are then driving down the highway without having been burdened by a tax. Now some would say that is the American way. We don't think that is the American way. The Revenue Committee has wrestled with the special fuel issue for a long time and finally two years ago it lit upon a solution which is extraordinarily painful to county treasurers. They hate it. They hate this solution with a passion, but the solution is this. When a person walks into a county treasurer's office to have his motor vehicle reregistered or relicensed every year, the first inquiry is whether or not that motor vehicle has a diesel engine and if it has a diesel engine that person is then told they have to buy a special sticker. It is called a special fuel sticker and they've got to buy this special sticker on there for that fuel-eating motor vehicle and they pay a price. Now they don't have to buy the special sticker, however, if they don't have on their farmstead one of these holding tanks. So in some respects we've got kind of a self-monitoring system because again part of the American way might be to be less than candid with the county treasurer. So what happens is that somebody can walk in and say, yeah, I've got a diesel pickup but, Lord, no, I don't have one of those special tanks on my farmstead. The county treasurers are complaining bitterly to us about that, but they also don't like enforcing the special sticker law. Senator Eret brought to the Revenue Committee a bill to repeal the