

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DEKAMP: ...you're not going to be able to steal that money and fund something else, at least I don't think you can get a bill passed to do that. So I would urge you to reject the Rupp amendment and I would ask you to advance the bill. If you do not advance the bill, it screws up the program in terms of the grants and the whole cycle.

PRESIDENT: There are 19 minutes left to the debate and we are on the Rupp amendment to the committee amendments. Senator Scofield and then Senator Withem.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Mr. President and members, I rise with mixed feelings to address the Rupp amendment, but I think Senator Rupp raises an issue that is worth discussing. I can tell you that it strikes me as kind of amusing that we just stood on the floor here a while back and talked about what we're going to do the next few days and what is essential for government to do and what it isn't essential to do and I think this is an area perhaps that is worthy of that kind of scrutiny in the first place. Just last week I had a mayor from one of my towns in my district who told me I wished you would have passed a bottle bill. We've got litter everywhere and if we've only got 18 communities cooperating in this right now I don't know how many communities there are in the State of Nebraska, but I'll bet you there is at least ten times as many as 18. I guess I have... the reason I have mixed feelings about this, I have two towns that have recently entered into the clean community system. As far as I know the one town is happy with it. The other town hasn't had enough experience yet to really give us, I guess, a long term approach, but I've had private individuals say to me that they are not convinced that this is a necessary program. And then I look out in the countryside and I see my 4-H Club members walking the roads and picking up litter and they did this a long time before this ever came along and they still do it. I see the Job Corps kids in my district doing a fine job of picking up litter along the roadsides and they did that, I believe, before this came along. I think there is a strong commitment on the part of people in Nebraska to keep our roadsides and our communities clean and I think perhaps Senator Rupp is asking us to review a program that deserves some review. I can tell you that this program has not addressed the problem of litter along the rural roadsides.