

SENATOR BEUTLER: In addition to the initial registration and the fee system with the cleanup revolving fund there are also new standards with regard to inspection of tanks and there are provisions in the bill for inspection by the Fire Marshal's Office of all existing tanks on an irregular basis in some cases, on a regular basis in other cases. There is an inspection fee that goes along with the inspection and that fee then goes into a separate fund which is used to fund the inspection program. There are other new standards that appear throughout the bill. The State Fire Marshal is directed with the assistance of the Department of Environmental Control to set into place a system of administrative rules and regulations. Those systems are described in Section 5 of the bill. They include procedures and specifications for the installation and replacement and repair of tanks. The permanent system which I have described to you, the monitoring program which I have described to you, includes a procedure for notifying state agencies with regard to the abandonment of tanks. One of the principal problems that we've had are folks who simply abandon their tanks for one reason or another and abandon them with hazardous materials or with chemical materials inside which eventually leak down into the ground water. And then there is a procedure for taking care of abandoned tanks and basically those are the six different types of procedures or systems that the two state agencies are responsible for instituting. I think that I've probably described most of the basic provisions of the bill to you and with that I'm going to stop and turn over the discussion to Senator Landis and then wait upon your questions. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Landis, may I introduce some guests in the north balcony, please. We have eight members of the Sierra Club of Nebraska. Ron Ellermeier (phonetic) is their leader. Would you folks please rise and be recognized. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, as co-introducer of LB 217 I just want to talk a little bit about the history of the bill and some of the reasons why we have introduced it. Four years ago a constituent of mine, Frank Smith, a member of the university staff on a geological survey team, came to me with the idea that underground storage tanks presented a hazard not only for rural, but for urban residents and he thought that an