

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to ask a question to Senator Beutler on this bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, would you respond, please? Okay.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Beutler, in Section 8 we have the penalty clause and I see the penalty clause is shall be subject to a civil fine of not more than \$5,000 for each offense and in the case of a continuing violation, each day of violation shall constitute a separate offense. Why such an enormous penalty on that?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hefner, the amount of the penalty in the federal bill is twice that amount. I'm trying to remember whether that's federally required or not. I'm not sure that it is. I don't know for sure right now. I can check on that for you, but part of the reason that the fines are so high, Senator Hefner, is because you want to be sure that people are abiding by the provisions because the preventive provisions of this bill are extremely important because preventive measures are cheap. Clean-up measures are extremely expensive.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay. Well, thank you and maybe we can find out a little bit more about it as the bill goes along. I'd appreciate your help on this and also in the summary you said that it was \$5,000 for each day, but I see here and in the case of continuing violation, then the penalty shall be \$5,000 per day. So, thanks for the information.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler, did you wish to close on the bill?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would just make a few brief comments and basically the comments have to do more generally with what we've been doing with regard to water legislation and protecting the quality of water in recent years. I think what is happening is that the people of the state are going faster than we are and I would indicate to you that evidence of that is the fact that there is now circulating and several groups are proposing and promoting what is called a clean water petition. And the clean water petition, to oversimplify it somewhat, basically would have the effect of taking water