

solution of chemicals, with irrigation water, would flow back down into an irrigation well. I think this is a situation that our Department of Environmental Control would really find intolerable. There aren't enough super funds in the whole world that could ever be devised to clean up a mess like that. But as we now go forward and have to take a responsible position in regulating what we have out there now, I feel that we can at least rationalize this down. Eighty percent of our people in the state live in towns and villages where they use their water from a community water supply system. So we would at least be able to say that we looked out for their interests and that we have made a restriction that we will not allow a chemigation system within a mile of their supply wells and minimize the contamination to their water. The other 20 percent that live on the farms would still have a problem, But as you know some of those living out there are sort of an endangered species anyway now, and a lot of them will probably be moving to town. So all the more reason I think we should have a concern for the safety of this public water supply. I guess as a past practicing engineer I find it embarrassing that the kind of equipment we have out there now was pawned off on our farmers to buy and install on these chemigation systems because there is a new generation of equipment that is being developed and that will be available, that will be much safer, much more economical to use. It will be able to use much smaller quantities of toxic chemicals and apply it in a much safer manner simply by not allowing the chemical to be in a solution that is poised over these wells where any failure would allow it back down the well. I feel that LB 284 now has behind it the strong support of the industry that produces the equipment. But I find it difficult to not believe that they are trying to milk all they can out of the current line of equipment that is being sold. There are still 10,000 pivots out there that are not equipped.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ERET: They have this equipment to be sold yet before they saturate the market. Then once they do that, I feel they will be here introducing the same sort of legislation that I am now, stating well, you know there is a problem, the public is concerned, maybe we should change the law and go to a different kind of equipment. They will then be in business to sell a whole new line of equipment that we