

that road now insofar as education is concerned and I think that they have made it a part of their responsibility to try to educate the public and the agricultural area and the individuals who use nitrates as to the possible dangers of contamination and I think that you will agree that that's probably the best way to prevent the problem from occurring and it's much preferable to prevent it than to try to clean it up. And so I guess we're acting on the premise that most persons will not knowingly contaminate the ground water if they have the proper information and we have the Extension Service which has been very helpful in the past, but the Natural Resource Districts have the technical expertise and the on site personnel to be very helpful and then also just to really assist the individual farmer if he needs that kind of assistance in the area of planning his nitrogen application.

SENATOR SIECK: Do you see more farmers going into consulting services to learn what they need to put on the land such as soil testing and this type?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I think in fact some of the NRDs are doing some of that now and they have discovered as we learned in recent years that in some cases there has been overfertilization of certain types of soils and some soils will react differently to application of fertilizers than do others, that the irrigation practices themselves make a considerable difference as to how you apply the chemicals and the nitrates. So I think that we've gone quite a ways down the road already and I think it's kind of interesting, if you read the committee statement, to see the broad range of individuals who supported this bill. I joshed some of my environmental friends when they came in and supported it that perhaps I had missed something and I should go back and reread it, but the facts are that we do have I think the broadest support for this bill that we've ever had. I think Senator Rod Johnson sort of touched on that when he indicated that Senator Beutler and I are co-introducers. That's getting about as broad a perspective as you can get out of this body.

SENATOR SIECK: Thank you. Yes, I see this part is the most important part of the bill and I also feel when you get some chemical people to support a bill like this they begin to realize that they are going to do the job, they are going to go out there themselves and tell people not to use too much