

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay, thank you, Senator Schmit. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay. Senator Sieck, please, then Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I, too, will support the amendments. The amendments are the bill. I feel this is a very important bill. The construction of the well itself is very important in this day and age. I know that there are many wells out there that are shallow wells today, that have a real serious problem as far as nitrate is concerned. Basically, it is because of the well construction itself. A lot of the subsurface water is running into that well and causing a large supply of pollutants getting into the well. But there is going to be a lot of those wells that will have to be reconstructed or reestablished. And I feel it is very important to have the well dug properly and designed properly so that this subsurface water does not get into it. Many of our cities, today, are having problems of nitrate because of the well construction, not because of really the nitrates in the water where they are drawing the water from, but it is because of the upper surfaces of water are running into that well. To me, this is one of the very important factors of trying to clean up our water system. We have a lot of clean water out there. But it is the upper surface of water that is running into these wells that is causing the real problem. That is why I feel we are going in the right direction when we establish a criteria for the proper well construction. I also realize that many of the well drillers today are doing what is necessary. But this just makes the public assured that these things are going to be done properly. Now one of the concerns that Senator Vickers brought out is the abandoned wells. This could be a very serious problem because these could contribute to the pollution of our water fields. We need to be sure that they are sealed properly. One of the things that he mentioned is what happens if somebody abandons a well and there is no new well construction on that particular piece of property. That well would just be abandoned. I think that should be looked into and see whether we can correct it so that we are assured that these things are taken care of. I can't admonish you enough that this is a very important bill. I think it is more important than the chemigation bill, the nitrate bill that we've got before us because here is the