

didn't push it in the committee because I thought it was an issue that had ought to be raised on this floor for a philosophical discussion. Now, the purpose of LB 217, as well as a number of other things that we are doing in here in an effort to protect the underground...or the quality of our underground water, the purpose is to devise a mechanism to do a couple of things, first of all, to know where the potential for any contamination is at, where the locations of these tanks are at, and, secondly, to set up a mechanism so that the owner or operators of these tanks will notify the proper authorities as soon as they have an accident so that action can be taken to, hopefully, protect the underground water from any contamination. But the problem, it seems to me, and the philosophical question I want each of you to ask yourself is if you are going to set up a mechanism whose purpose is to require people to notify as soon as possible of an accident, then you had ought to also set up a mechanism so that you are not going to put those people or those individuals in a situation where they may have to come up with considerable amounts of money themselves to have to correct that accident, if, in fact, they have "jumped through all the hoops", if they have notified everybody, if they have registered, if they have done all the proper things and then an accident occurs. If it is the intention to get them to report it right away, then it is my contention that we had ought not to...we had ought at least to limit their liabilities and that is what the amendment does that I am offering to you. Without question, it raises the issue of a mini super fund, if you will. My amendment would create a mechanism whereby there would be some funds generated through the registration process and then to use these funds to help limit the liability of those individuals or those companies that immediately report an accident. Now, it seems to me that it doesn't make any difference if I am an individual farmer that has a fuel tank out there or if I am Senator Hefner with a large commercial installation of fuel tanks or other hazardous materials, that if I have a loss or a leak and it might take me a little while to discover that leak, to even know I have got one, if I am going to report it right away, if I report it right away and I have registered and done all the proper things, it seems unfair, to me, at least, for the government then to say to me, well, you know, it might cost 5 or \$10,000 or maybe \$50,000, for all I know, to clean that up. My initial reaction, I think, if we do it that way, will be to say, well, you know, I know I have got this problem, I know I have had this accident but it is going to be a long time before it is discovered probably because I am quite a ways to water and I am quite a ways from anybody else, or any other wells, so I am just