

apply the same principle, the same principle to all of the environmental problems, we're going to have one or two things, we will either have a completely clean environment, or we'll have a totally decimated environment because in every instance, whether it's solid waste, whether it's low-level waste, whether it's ordinary garbage, whether it's air, water, or soil pollution, we just put it on the light bill, so to speak, and let the consumer pay. This is a new and novel approach, and one which someone ought to be commended for, I'm not going to mention any names, but the facts are that the industry, in all practical purposes is taking a walk on this, except in a very small way. Now I'm willing to work with them, and we all are, but I think we ought to recognize that, number one, the consumer is paying, but it's a small amount, that's right. It's a small amount and if it does the job we wanted it to do, which maintains an equitable, reliable source of petroleum products across the State of Nebraska, that's helpful. But it has not done that, ladies and gentlemen. The small communities, as has been pointed out, have for the most part lost their petroleum supplier, and one of these days if a farmer wants petroleum he's going to have to go to the interstate with his truck or his five-gallon bucket and haul it back from the interstate because we are not going to see those small suppliers out in the area. The \$25,000 fee is very inequitable from the standpoint of the small supplier. We have dealers that don't pump 50, 60 thousand gallons a year. If they had to raise the \$25,000, honestly they can't afford it. Probably the most serious problem we have here is this, that insurance companies who have for years carried the insurance on those facilities, suddenly a few years ago when they saw the handwriting on the wall...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...began to write themselves exclusions. And so, as a result of that, the local distributor was left unprotected, and in an attempt to protect the industry, to protect the distribution system, we came forward with a bill several years ago and this is a follow-up on it. But, number one, remember this, if we extrapolate the theory that the consumer shall pay the cost of cleanup to all other areas, that would raise a great hue and cry across the State of Nebraska. I support the Lamb amendment and I think it is important to remember also again the railroads are in there not because they're a threat but because they're a major contributor. One of these days they're going to do the same thing that they've