

individuals to take those steps that will preclude as much as possible the possibility of leakage and losses and damage. That's an important element. Look at what you're calling upon the taxpayers to do with this bill. If this fee structure is dropped, if this amendment is dropped, you're saying to the taxpayers of the state, okay, we're going to increase your possible liability...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...from 3.5 million to 7 million, bang, just like that. And as far as...and it's going to continue ad infinitum into the future. There's no limitation on what the taxpayers pay, why do they want a limitation on the other part of the fund which is, relatively speaking, a minor part of the fund anyway. Let me remind you again, under the current system, \$250,000 goes into the fund from petroleum marketers, from farmers, from everybody who contributes, \$250,000. Three and a half million dollars goes in from the fuel tax, from the taxpayers in the state, from all the people in the cities, from all the people in the country, some are farmers, true, most are not. If you want to express the philosophy that a socialized system of insurance is what makes sense...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...for the State of Nebraska in perpetuity, as opposed to an emergency type of situation, then you can announce that by doing away with this fee structure. If, on the other hand, you want to say this is an aberration, we don't think this is a good way of doing business, and in the future, we want to switch back over to our traditional ways, our conservative ways of doing business, then you should keep this fee structure in place because this fee structure will ensure that that return to the private system is watched very carefully and takes place at the very earliest possible point in time, because at some point in time...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...the fees paid in under this program...at all points in time, the fees paid in under this program by individual people being insured, effectively, are going to be compared constantly to what the price of a premium would be on private insurance.