

hopefully, maintain service in rural communities and the small communities. Now not all of the institutions...installations that pump small amounts of fuel are located in rural areas. There are some, of course, in the ma and pa category in the cities, and they also, then, are placed under the same requirements as are the major installations. The reason that Senator Robak and I discussed this is very simple. It would appear to me that unless we find some system whereby we give the very small operator additional protection the day will come when those of us who do not live on the interstate are going to have to take our five gallon bucket or our tank wagon and go down to the interstate to a major truck stop and fill up and go back to the farm at Bellwood because we are placing an intolerable burden upon those small institutions. And as Senator Beutler pointed out, the consumer pays. But who is this consumer? I drive more miles in an automobile in a year than most people, 75,000 at least. That is probably two or three times what most people drive, five times what most probably drive, ten times what some drive, but that amount of fuel is minuscule contrasted with the amount of fuel that we buy on the farm. We buy thousands upon thousands of gallons on the farm. So the rural farmer pays a substantial amount of money to this fund. The railroads, incidentally, who basically are willing to take care of their own problem, are major contributors to this fund. They really probably will do their own cleanup, in most instances, but we put the bite on them, and they have not fought back too hard. But the facts are that we are a social incidence in this instance. And if you want to just come in and charge every individual installation for the actual cost of cleanup, then we are going to start another entire investigation and that will revolve around just what is required. Is it necessary, for example....

SENATOR MORRISSEY: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...at David City, Nebraska, where you are 300 feet to the water table, to clean up a leak for 50 or 100 thousand dollars, as opposed to Bellwood, Nebraska, where you are 15 feet to the water table, and a much greater threat to the underground water supply? We are going to have to establish a system of priorities, and I am sure we will. But I think at this time, it's not very often I stand on this floor and argue for this kind of a program, but at this time what we are saying is, basically, what Senator Coordsen has said, it is a matter of survival for many of the small stations west of 10th Street in