

Lincoln, west of 120 th Street in Omaha, and I think that we ought to take a look at it. As I said before, and I am not arguing with Senator Beutler, as I said before, you may have a better idea, but I really believe that we ought to take a look at it because if 5,000 is fair to the small operator, then maybe 150 or 300 thousand...

SENATOR MORRISSEY: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...is fair to the larger operator on the interstate.

SENATOR MORRISSEY: The next speaker is Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President and members, I rise again to speak to the Schmit amendment because it has a traumatic effect to the purpose behind the bill. I think anyone in this body would be hard-pressed to argue the public policy good that this program is designed to accomplish; that is to get leaky underground fuel storage tanks out of the ground, replace them with new tanks, hopefully, that will not leak or, at least, not leak immediately, and to get the cleanup going. I think I have not talked to a person yet who does not support the theory behind the program. But the funding mechanism seems to be the issue at hand here, and how much the consumer of petroleum products, whether it is the railroads, whether it is farmers, whether it is just the plain old guy driving down the interstate in his car, how much they are going to have to help fund this program, and how much the petroleum marketer out there with that gas station along the interstate or on Highway 2 or wherever you want to find it in the State of Nebraska, how much he or she is going to have to pay. Senator Schmit makes a legitimate point. We have many small petroleum marketers in Nebraska. Many of them, as Senator Coordsen said, \$5,000 is an awful lot of money but I think that we go from a program where at this point the marketers are required to pay the first up front \$25,000 down to now \$5,000, plus the fact that they get a million dollar policy after that \$5,000 is covered, not only in the cleanup but the potential third-party liability that may be encountered by a neighbor or any party surrounding that particular petroleum marketer's operation. What I am saying is the fund for this program designed in LB 409 was introduced to meet some EPA standards where we got a fund up to a level which they will approve. We are approved until they disprove us and there is a good chance that if we don't get our fund up to a particular