

SENATOR MILLS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I find myself on shakey grounds getting up and agreeing with Senator Schmit, supporting his bill, and shakier grounds and the thunder clapping and lightening might strike. But I think Senator Dworak brings out a good point. It was brought out last year on LB 861. I think many of us here do have faith in the Game and Parks Department and feel that they can handle the situation, that they're going to be responsible. As Senator Schmit has said it could cause an undue burden on them. I want to speak to the bill later. I think it is an important bill. Senator Schmit is really on the right track at last.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: I can rise to support the Dworak amendment without being contradicted because I am trying to give power to the Appropriations Committee since I'm not on the Committee anymore. I would caution those of you who are trying to fragment income by indicating that the department involved, regardless of whether it is the Game and Parks or any other department, is the better judge of how the money is going to be spent than this legislative body. The Game and Parks Commission, the Board or Regents, or any other constitutional or executive board does not have to stand the heat of raising money. This is not an insult to the Game and Parks Commission. This isn't an insult to any other board, it is simply good business. If the Legislature chooses to give up its appropriation authority, as Congress has done, and you begin to fragment expenditures, there will be no end to the problems involved. I can attest to the fact, as far as Game and Parks is concerned in the past, that we've had a terrible time in regard to maintenance. In fact, when we would appropriate money for maintenance we would find that they spent it for other activities. The only way we finally tied them down was to earmark that money. Now if you want to fragment revenue, you will find in the future, regardless of which department you're talking about, they figure that they own this money, that it's their money and they do not have to account to anybody. If that is what you want to do then you can proceed to do this. I'm going to support LB 81. But I assure you that if you don't tie these down to come before some committee, before long this legislative body will have given up all its authority. With those comments in mind I intend to support Senator Dworak. This does not hog-tie any department. It simply indicates something that we have failed to do in the past. If you want to check with some of these subcommittees, I think it was Senator Kelly, Senator Savage and Senator Cope that were on a subcommittee of the Executive Board this last session, you will find that one of the scandals of state government has to do with the lack of maintenance that is being taken care of on buildings and on facilities throughout this state. This is not confined to one agency, this is confined to many. If you want your money spent where it ought to go, and I'm not passing judgement on where it ought to go, but if you want to spend your money where you legislate, you're going to have to have some accountability. The only way you're going to have accountability is to tell the departments that when the money is appropriated they have to account, next session, to where that money is spent. If you don't want to do this, give up your appropriations authority, then the Legislature doesn't really have much else to do, except to ask