

so that we may hear...the Clerk may hear your oral vote, please. Roll call vote in reverse order. All those in favor of the Eret amendment to the Schmit amendment vote aye, opposed vote nay. Call the roll.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 478-79 of the Legislative Journal.) 16 ayes, 29 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. The amendment is not adopted. We are back to the Schmit amendment. Do you have anything on that now? Call of the house is raised. What is our situation now, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: We are back to Senator Schmit's amendment, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Very well. I have these people to speak on the Schmit amendment--Senator Rod Johnson first, then Senator Carsten, Sieck, Schmit and Morehead. Senator Rod Johnson. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, I rise first of all, let me begin or preface my statements by saying I support the consolidation of several amendments into the Schmit amendment, which we are now discussing. I think it is by far and away the best amendment that has been offered up to this particular point. I think it incorporates a number of philosophical beliefs from several different senators and interest groups that have a great deal of interest in the passage of LB 284. Let me go maybe a step away from this particular issue in support of this amendment and talk in general about LB 284. I think this is one of the most significant votes that...or issues that we will deal with during the coming year. There are a lot of other issues that I think are important, but certainly in the area of water quality there is nothing, I think, as important as the passage of LB 284 with these amendments. I think that in many cases we could look at this as the foundation for a number of other key legislative bills dealing with the environment and dealing with water quality issues. The problem is that there are an awful lot of people, both inside this Legislature and outside of this Legislature that are working to take us from absolutely hardly anything being done in water quality to a very restrictive environment in which producers, farmers are going to be restricted almost completely from using any ag chemicals or fertilizers. So