

said Senator Schmit was involved in the transfer, and I was. It was part of an arrangement. We had not done well in water development for many years. Governor Kerrey told me, if I have this responsibility, then I am willing to lead the charge to place a substantial amount of funds, \$20 million, \$20 million annually into water development. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the deal fell through, not necessarily all Governor Kerrey's fault. We had financial problems, but here we are today in a legislative session, two-thirds of the way through, water development, its conservation, its quality is not a high priority with this body. What is a high priority? Economic development. What is economic development? Economic development is maintaining the race tracks in Nebraska, maintaining various tax breaks for certain executives, maintaining certain kinds of grants for energy development, none of which touch upon the general public of the State of Nebraska.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Hopefully, it will trickle down, but the trickle down theory, ladies and gentlemen, works over a very long period of time. I believe, as Senator Warner has outlined, that this area works best when it is handled in this manner. If you don't do this, ladies and gentlemen, then I suggest the commission need not exist because it will not function under these kind of rules. I would hope that Senator Lamb would not withdraw the amendment. If he does withdraw it, I would hope it would be reintroduced, and most important, ladies and gentlemen, and, again, I do not want to draw a division between rural and urban legislators, but this is of a principal interest at this time to rural legislators, but the time will come, ladies and gentlemen, when it will also be of major interest to the urban dwellers, and they will be the ultimate individuals who will suffer if we do not give adequate support to water development, and we are not doing it under the present system.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time. Senator Labeledz, please.

SENATOR LABEDZ: I call the question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, to cease debate.