

mandates of the Federal Aeronautics Administration. I guess, Senator Schmit, I do not, I do not have any suggestion that it should not be done. I certainly understand that when equipment gets old it needs to be replaced. Certainly aircraft that is even more true, it is certainly true that maintenance costs can be substantially higher on old aircraft than replacing. I guess I am only mystified why they never ever so much has never ever mentioned the request either during the hearing or making any suggestion. Nor am I aware of any correspondence requesting the aircraft. Based upon what you have said and what I have seen it would not appear to be an unreasonable thing. In fact it would be appear to be a reasonable thing to do. But again, not having it heard of it except when you mentioned to me the other day I guess that I am hesitant to make a suggestion one way or the other. But other than to point out that I assume that there will be some funds added to the appropriation bills recommendation or some cut, but I want to remind the body that there is five million dollars that the Appropriation Committee reserved for floor amendments to any of the appropriation bills and/or for A bills. So should the body choose to utilize a portion of that five million for this purpose that certainly is what it was reserved to be used for. The fact that some item is added does not mean that the budget is being broken but the judgment of the body is being used to distribute a portion of that five million dollar reserve for the body to distribute. So, with those comments, Mr. President, I guess from the Appropriations Committee point of view, this would be a matter each member ought to determine for themselves.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I can understand why Senator Schmit is interested in helicopters because he is an accomplished helicopter pilot. I still am expressing surprise and perhaps a little dismay that the Appropriations Committee was not informed regarding this need, if the need exists, because in all things we tried to respond to the legitimate needs throughout the State of Nebraska and to all of the state agencies. Senator Schmit, could you tell me when this first was brought to your attention?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Marsh, I believe that it was sometimes in the first month or perhaps early in the second month of the session. I would just like to point out that it was probably due to partly a misunderstanding on my part that I did not get the information to you. I did tell Col. Karthaus that I would try to find out what it would cost to replace the equipment and how much it would cost to update the old equipment.