

May 27, 1981

LB 487A

to the bill itself as it is amended and I think that portion ought to be adopted, but I would urge the adoption of the amendment returning the two items back into the A bill and there is no problem with doing this. It causes no harm to take this out and the precedent of amending A bills I hope for general appropriations I would hope the body would recognize the adverse effects you could well be generating in the future if that would become a daily practice.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, of course, I rise in opposition to Senator Warner's proposal. The reason is very clear. If you will...I happened to be in Chicago attending a conference the day that the bill came up on Select File and I guess I didn't listen closely when the bill, 559, was up on General File, and I came back and after on some of my sparetime reading, I discovered that this language was included in LB 559. And I will just read it briefly because I think it is important that you know what it is. It says, "There is included in the appropriation to this program \$50,000 cash funds for expansion of the Department's export marketing program. It is the intent of the Legislature that the various commodity checkoff programs under the Department of Agriculture allocate funds to the Department to assist in expanding their massive export marketing program." Now the Department of Agriculture has their own export marketing programs. Former Senator George is a part of that. There is nothing at all that prevents the Department or Senator George from coming to the checkoff programs and making an application for funds, just as everyone else does, but I believe it is a mistake to place into law language which says it's the intent of the Legislature that the checkoff growers contribute to the Department of Agriculture. The Department is basically a regulatory process. The fact that they are getting into the export business is always a matter of conjecture by the Governor who happens to be in charge at the time. This Governor chooses to expand that program and that is fine but there is no force behind this. It is merely some very confusing language. It is not my intention, and I want the record to show that, I do not think it is the intention of most of the members of the committee nor those individuals who have worked on the checkoff programs for a long time, Senator Maresh, Senator Kahle and others. I think that it is a mistake, as I said, if the Department has a program which they choose to have funded or would like to have funded by any of these checkoff programs, they can make application to those programs, and if they are worthy, they will