

January 13, 1982

LB 401

I personally will not be voting for the bill, hoping that I won't have a chance to offer the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion at the moment is to advance the bill. Senator Haberman, do you wish to speak to this motion? You don't. Senator Cullan, do you wish to speak to the motion to advance the bill? Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, the motion before the House is to advance the bill. Do you wish to speak to that motion?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, but I won't take a lot of time, Mr. President. But I wish that some of you who are so determined to have this would just think a little bit. For example, even without this bill I believe it is probably possible for the citizens of an area by an initiative procedure to create a control area. I believe it is in the law. I think they could do it today. You cannot stop the will of the people. By the same token, you can go to the referendum procedure, couldn't you, Senator Lamb, and throw it out if the people really felt badly enough about it. We always have that protection. It is still there... it is still there. So in reality, in reality what Senator Lamb is doing is laying down a few guidelines perhaps, but it is unnecessary. The people have the right of initiative and referendum and you cannot deny them that right. And I just want to say once more, I have seen about everything that could possibly happen during 13 years plus a few weeks happen on this floor but this is the first time in all the time I have been here that I have seen an almost unanimous vote of urban members voting to disenfranchise themselves, voting to say, we don't want anything to say about this. I begged...I beg your forgiveness, I thought I must have been mistaken. I am wondering how it is going to read in the paper tomorrow. I hope that it reads the way I understand here today because if this things works, ladies and gentlemen, and especially those of you of the press, this is a tremendous idea which can be expanded tremendously into a lot of areas. People who don't have an interest in education shouldn't be allowed to vote, if you don't happen to live in a certain area, if your children are all grown. There are tremendous possibilities here, and it is almost overwhelming in its consequences. So get this list, look down the list and as I have seen before, we sometimes make a change from time to time, but, ladies and gentlemen, if we advance 401 with the present language, you will have taken the step which is going to haunt you from this day forward.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion before the House is the advancement of the bill. I am going to go back over the list once