

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) Let's hold it down so we can hear the speakers. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: To come on this floor and ask for 25,000 or 250,000 or 2.5 million for some meritorious purpose, you have one heck of a time getting people to listen. All of a sudden we find ourselves enacting a bill into law which is not needed because the study has been completed. The research has been done. The university has done...they have plenty of evidence on this issue and the Water Management Board has looked at both aspects of water transfers when they completed their study. All you have to do is go out and ask for a copy of the report, but because there is a small group of people who have got a burr under their saddle about water transfers, and they are taking the position that they've got to have another independent point of view relative to whether or not it's desirable to move water out of Nebraska or into Nebraska or within Nebraska. So in order to salve the feelings of these people we come in with LB 710 and 710, along with being unneeded in the first place, then appropriates \$25,000 of salve or "slickum" or whatever you want to call it for the purpose of satisfying those people. Now this doesn't make any sense. It makes absolutely no sense. There comes a time when you have to accept reality. Senator Bob Kerrey sent to me a reprint just several days ago and believe it or not, a group called the Environmental Defense Fund, which some of you have some acquaintance with, not exactly a right-wing conservative group that is under the auspices of the Republican Party. I'm going to read to you one of their comments and I'd wish you'd listen to it.

PRESIDENT: Excuse me, Senator Schmit. Senator Schmit, excuse me. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold the conversation down so that we can hear. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHMIT: It says, turn water into a commodity. People can buy or sell and the market will soon straighten out inefficient ways of using the stuff. Now that's not Schmit speaking, that's a gentleman from the Environmental Defense Fund. So before the press comes out with six column headlines or scurrilous cartoons showing Schmit with his five-gallon bucket peddling water to Colorado, remember this comes from the Environmental Defense Fund. I'm not advocating the idea. I'm just saying you'd better take a look at things. But here we are without any good reason whatsoever, going to throw 25,000 bucks into somebody's pocket and for a report that has already been