

April 27, 1989

LB 813

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment I have is by Senator Schmit.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, please.

CLERK: Senator, your amendment is on page 1914 of the Legislative Journal, 1914.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, the amendment which I have offered is an amendment which provides that \$50,000 be included in LB 813 to fund the next biennium of the Interstate Grain Compact. I'd like to just take a minute and give you a little bit of history of what has taken place since the last time the Legislature provided \$50,000 to initially start the work of the compact. The compact has worked very closely with the Nebraska Wheat Board, and right or wrong, we take some credit for having actually assisted the Nebraska Wheat Board in the culmination of eight sales of high quality grain to foreign countries, a rather unique situation, I believe, since when we first began this effort we were told that there was no way that a quasi government agency could do anything positive in this direction. We've also signed a memorandum of understanding with the country of Finland to engage in trade with high quality grain, along with the Nebraska Wheat Board. The compact, as you know, called for a minimum of five states to join. It also called for an initial investment of \$50,000 per state with the subsequent investments as to be determined by the compact.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, may I interrupt you, please. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold the conversation down so we can hear the speaker. Thank you.

SENATOR SCHMIT: The five states that are members of the compact are Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, New Mexico and Wyoming. Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota have paid the full \$50,000, New Mexico has paid 25,000, and the State of Wyoming has not paid at this time and they are not in session now, so they will not pay, this year, any portion of their assessment. The compact in their initial meetings decided that after the initial assessment had been paid the compact would assess the various states based upon their productivity of grains. Minnesota, pardon me, yes, Minnesota, Iowa and Nebraska are about equal in their production of total grains, and of course New Mexico and Wyoming are much less. Those assessments then would be substantially less than the assessments for the three major grain producing states.