

good conscience, Senator Schmit, I'm not going to vote to adopt an amendment when I full well know that we have to change the substantive law to have it meaning. Otherwise we're giving the impression I'm afraid to a lot of people that something is being done that, in fact, hasn't been.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, thank you, Senator, and I know you're sincere there, Senator, but I just want to comment that that would not be the first time on this floor, this session or any other session that I've attended, that we haven't given the impression to some people that we're doing something which we haven't done and I'm not going to be more definitive than that, but I think that we all recognize what I'm talking about in some specific instances. I would...I appreciate the comments and I appreciate the support of the legislators who have spoken on this. At this time I am going to then withdraw, ask permission to withdraw the amendment, Mr. President, and discuss it further with Senator Warner because I do believe that he had an idea as to how we can utilize those Cash Reserve Funds without impairing them and use them for a specific purpose and make it very specific. It has been many years since we have talked about this and we have not been able to do anything. We do not know nor will we know unless we have some funds to pledge whether there will ever be any federal funds forthcoming, but we do know that without some pledged funds, the State of Nebraska will probably not be in a position to compete for those funds. Our states to the west of us, because of their coal severance tax I believe Senator Warner mentioned, are in a very key position to attract funds. Other western states have other mineral resources which can be utilized. We have not seen fit in the past to make an appropriation to a specific water development fund and maybe it is necessary because it isn't probably wise even to have a large amount of money set aside without any known project, without any known use, but nonetheless, and I've discussed this to a certain extent with our water resources people, it's the old question of what comes first, the chicken or the egg? Do you have the money and then look for a project or do you plan a project and look for the money? And so at this time, very frankly, Senator Warner, my nest has been empty for 20 years in this area, so I was just trying to get some kind of an indication, but there were no eggs at all, but I think that perhaps we have at least an idea here which might be developed. I would like to work with the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Chairman of the Ag Committee and members of the Natural Resources Committee and others who are interested and