

May 9, 1989

LB 814

wouldn't put this on their list, it's important enough to do, that I was going to bring it on behalf of citizens all over the state who tell me this is a good idea and they think it's good for the state.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Sandy, for saving me a couple of minutes. Anyway, I do appreciate your response and I think I have made a major error here in the Legislature. I should have had you offer the amendment to provide the \$20 million for water development projects. I guess this morning's newspaper again promotes the idea that water is being trucked to dry Iowans. We have a number of other indications that we have serious shortages of water in the State of Nebraska and serious threats to the underground aquifer being depleted below what is considered to be good husbandry. I would just want to say this. I do not want to be the scrooge in the...in the party. I don't want to be the dog in the manger but I just want to caution you that we are spending a tremendous amount of money on projects that are nice, that are desirable and probably deserve the money to be invested in them. But I want to just say also that either we ought to, by golly, invest some money in that entity which is our number one resource, that is water development, or else we just as well abolish the Department of Water Resources and take that money and build some more concrete and mortar because it isn't going to do us any good, ladies and gentlemen, unless we have support of the basic industry of Nebraska. At some point in time someone is going to make a proposal here to spend the full million seven on the greenhouses of Nebraska and I expect to hear all sorts of reasons why we can't afford it. It would seem to me those fossils have been there for millions of years and maybe this is the year to do it, but I would just suggest that perhaps there are some other needs that ought to be taken care of also. I'm going to support Senator Hall's amendment, Senator Scofield. I don't think it sandbags your project. I don't think it delays it beyond what is reasonable. I wish I had that kind of premise going for some of the water projects I have discussed. I just want to say this that...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...I don't believe we have our priorities in order. We're spending a lot of money on capital construction, some of it's being spent the second time around and I think that we may find ourselves in a predicament in a year or two that Senator Warner described as one he found himself in his first