

about a potato bill and I thought it would be appropriate to mention that, that where were you 110 years ago when we had the people starving in Ireland, when we needed a potato specialist? And in case...and it was just a little trivia thing, but it's true, how basic a potato could be. My father had eight brothers and sisters, all died before the age of five, buried in Ireland, because of not having enough to eat and, of course, the diseases and physical afflictions that go along with that sort of thing. They came, by the way, to this country and had eight more, so we turned out okay. But on the other hand, I'm not sure what a potato specialist does, and I know we're not talking about that now in this bill, but I thought it might be important to remind you how important potatoes can be to some people. There could be a lot more Lynch kids running around. I know there's enough, but there could be a lot more if we had potatoes 110 years ago at least.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Scofield, please. No, Senator Schmit, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I have a question for Senator Scofield. Senator Scofield, don't we now have a potato specialist at the Scottsbluff station?

SENATOR SCOFIELD: We do not and that's one of the reasons why there is a potato...why this bill was introduced and why, in fact, that position has been funded in the mainline budget bill. Let me, well, this is your time. I'll say that later, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, yes.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: That position was shifted a few years ago to do more vegetable oriented work. It's had a negative impact on the potato industry so we did put the potato specialist in the mainline bill. Freed up, this bill is simply a shell.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, in other words we really started out with a potato specialist but we shoved him aside, found another responsibility for him. It's a little bit like we did with 899. Starts out as a potato bill and winds up as a construction bill, a capital construction bill. Now I appreciate Senator Warner's explanation that we put these bills out independently so you don't have to vote for them as a package, but I'm going to challenge you folks to check the votes on LB 898 as opposed to