

November 15, 1989 LB 6, 7

other bills. Most of all, why are we here in the first place? We're here because the court ordered us to stop taxing the railroads. We didn't do it voluntarily. You had a chance to do it voluntarily, ladies and gentlemen. I've not said so specifically, but you're all getting up here touting LB 7.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: When I introduced the bill along with Senator Robak, the only difference between that bill and...my and Senator Robak's bill were a couple of digits. Ours is 497. No one supported the bill with the exception of myself and Senator Robak, I believe, and the railroads and you had a chance then and there was reason then, there was reason then to support the bill because at that time the issue was still in doubt and you could have settled it with your heads in the air and you wouldn't have gotten a shellacking from the court. Now you've been...we have been whipsawed by the court. So now we come back with our tails between our legs and our heads bowed and we say, oh, we're going to give this money back because we cannot tax the railroads, so we're going to give it back to the subdivisions. It is our fault, ladies and gentlemen, because you didn't pass 497 in the regular session that the subdivisions have got that \$12 million hit, and maybe the rest of the hit also because had we known, had we done then what we should have done...

SPEAKER BARRETT: Time has expired.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we would have taken the action necessary to have alerted the subdivisions that they were going to lose that money. We didn't do it then, so now we're trying to place the blame on someone else. I'd like to have someone explain to me if they intend to make a direct appropriation through this bill to those subdivisions who will lose the money as a result of the Supreme Court decision.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson. Excuse me, Senator Landis, followed by Senator Hefner. Senator Landis. Senator Hefner, would you like to speak to the amendment?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment to this bill, LB 6. I appreciate what Senator Landis is trying to do. He is trying to find a little more money, but I don't think we need any more money right now.