

February 4, 1991 LB 577

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Warner, would you yield?

SENATOR WARNER: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Where...does Dr. Rodgers still make the original reference on these bills?

SENATOR WARNER: That is correct.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And how did Dr. Rodgers reference this bill?

SENATOR WARNER: I believe Senator Baack just indicated that the original reference was to Health, isn't that what you said, and that, as he always does, he commented, as is frequently with several bills, that there is two or more committees that conceivably could be appropriate by virtue of subject matter and Judiciary was one of the alternatives that he indicated, and based on what Senator Baack just said, that the majority of the committee and with some history behind it voted to go to Judiciary.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. Ladies and gentlemen, most of the bills could be referenced, as I have said before, to almost any committee and get a fair hearing, but we also know also that most bills can be referenced into a variety of committees, but usually history has something to do with that. And I would have to say that I'm a little concerned that I have seen a number of the bills which traditionally have gone to Natural Resources which are now being diverted to other committees. And I well recall when the Committee on Agriculture and Recreation existed, and then bills began to be diverted from that committee, and then when it was Agriculture and Environment it wasn't very long until bills began to be stripped from that committee and a committee then that was formerly a very dominant committee became almost a noncommittee, and today the Ag Committee has very few bills. I visited a little bit with Senator Rod Johnson about the same fate lying in store for the Natural Resources Committee, and so I have a natural reluctance to watch bills referenced by virtue of a general, of a specific instance, for example, penalties, in my estimation, do not justify sending a bill to Judiciary. In the first place almost every bill can have a penalty. If it does, then you can send them all to Judiciary. Any bill which carries any kind of appropriation or any kind of a demand for money can go to Appropriations. The Judiciary Committee is overworked at the present time, and I