

think they can well afford it, folks. I think this \$34,000 wouldn't even pay the taxes on the fleet of vehicles that were allegedly bought with compact funds, couldn't even come close to that. School district is asking what's fair and what's right. They're asking this body to please send the message to these departments, they are accountable, they must pay attention and they will be accountable in the future. Please support my amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Morrissey. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I'm going to make some comments that might surprise some people. I had originally opposed the Morrissey amendment. I had opposed it for all of the reasons that you have heard here this morning. I think, however, that it's time that this Legislature goes on record and I think that Senator Morrissey put his finger on something which I think is more important than anything else that has been said here this morning, and that is the word "accountability". Time after time after time on this floor we have heard that, but we have never followed up on it. I want to give you a little bit of the record. Way back before Mr. Peery came to Nebraska I wrote a letter to Governor Orr and I said, I am in total favor of moving the office for the compact to Nebraska, but please leave Mr. Peery in Atlanta. Anyone who had ever met him knew that he was trouble, but every time I brought it up I was beaten down. I was threatened and I was told to mind my own business, that it was compact money and that it was none of our business, we had no control over it. I could go into greater detail, but I can tell you that Mr. Peery demonstrated his contempt for myself personally and for members of this Legislature on many occasions. I want to point out also that I did not just stop with my letter to the Governor. I went to the generators, I went to the commission members and I expressed my concern on more than one occasion. Without exception I was told that it was not legislative business. Ladies and gentlemen, when does it become legislative business? I think the facts are plain before us today. Anytime that we enact into law a statute which takes from the taxpayers money to carry out what we have set out to do, it is legislative business. We are the people's representatives. Each of us has the responsibility to carry those accountability measures as far as we can. I could tell you also why it is not easy to do so because each time that a member of this body tries to call for accountability, the people who have the public funds descend upon the rest of the members