

we will expend twice as much. Does that mean we are getting less representation or a poorer quality of representation? I don't think so. I think we'll probably get as good if not better representation. The only question is, what price tag do you put on it? And we don't limit that through this amendment. We cut it in half. We say come back at the point in time it is necessary or needed. We save some dollars in the interim and we don't have to ante it all up front. I think it is a very appropriate amendment. I think it is prudent in that it doesn't strike the vast majority of the funding that Senator Schmit had tried previously, but it does address the issue, and also gives us the opportunity to continue I think full force and full speed ahead in terms of protecting our water rights as we see them. It doesn't jeopardize our representation at all. I would urge adoption of Senator Schmit's amendment. I think it is a good compromise proposal. It does save us some dollars in the interim.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hall. Senator Moore, followed by Senator Hillman and Wehrbein. Senator Moore.

SENATOR MOORE: Madam President and members, you know, Senator Schmit, as tenacious as he is, I wouldn't speak on this but he keeps crafting it to where he eventually is going to get the votes to do it. I just want to get up and reiterate that I think that is a mistake. And, at the same time, he does the proverbial sniping at the Appropriations Committee and the process, how we discourage questions and don't want people to find out, want to hide the money, and all that. You know, I guess that issue has nothing to do with what we are talking about but it couldn't be further from the truth, Senator Schmit. You know, we try to open the process up to give people, like you and yourself, the opportunity and the informational briefings to come ask questions because the more the comfort level that the members of the body have with the budget, that helps all of us, particularly on the 81st day when you are spending time replowing grounds and plowing a number of times, and I don't discourage any senator from filing amendments. That is the way it is supposed to be in here. You are talking about spending billions of dollars. If I had my druthers, I'd spend 60 days next session developing the budget. The timetables are our timetables, and we have to live with them, Senator Schmit. Now as far as Senator Schmit says, snow will fall in July before a state agency reappropriates any of the balance. State agencies never do that, Senator Schmit says. Well, how about this