

LB 714.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I must...I apologize to the body for using this mechanism to reply to the comments of Senator Wehrbein. I do appreciate his interest in LB 754. It was my bill. I took the bill reluctantly because it was a controversial bill. We had worked out many of the problems on the bill, but in the last few weeks a number of individuals on this floor decided to Christmas tree the bill for their own personal reasons to the point that the bill became bogged down and much to my regret. I appreciate the work of Senator Wehrbein the last several weeks on the bill. I have worked on ethanol for more than 20 years on this floor. I did not appreciate the raid on the Ethanol Fund that was being made by those individuals who would totally destroy that fund for purposes never intended when we took the money from the farmers. I welcome Senator Wehrbein suggestion that perhaps we ought to look at this, if there is a special session. I think your remarks are very appropriate, Senator Wehrbein. I want to clear up one more point, though, and that is this. If anyone thinks that it was the Speaker's fault that the bill was passed over because of the manner in which he took bills that did not have amendments, I want to let you know that I discussed it at great length with the Speaker and I told him that we were unable to come to agreement, that as much as I regretted it, I would be in favor of passing over the bill. And I spoke with Senator Smith, Senator Coordsen, Senator Warner, and, let's see, at least one or two more of the senators about the issue, and we all agreed, although we disagreed about aspects of the bill, that it was better to pass over it than to take up the time of the Legislature on an issue that could not be resolved. If we can resolve it in a special session, I would be totally in favor of that, Senator Wehrbein. I will work with you on that. I know other members of the body would also. I, therefore, now, Mr. President, ask a permission to withdraw the amendment.

PRESIDENT MOUL: If there are no objections, it is so ordered. Proceed with Final Reading.

CLERK: (Read LB 714 on Final Reading.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: All provisions of law relative to procedure having been complied with, the question is, shall LB 714 pass