

Nebraska, and I can't see why this body would not want to support the backbone of a very vital link for our transportation system and for hauling whatever, and thank you.

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

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, Senator Robinson asked some good questions and he referred to how bad he'd feel if folks didn't agree with him. I think at one point or another 48 of us on this floor, Senator, would agree with you that we have all felt that way, and that probably also includes the Chair. But in any case, I just want to say that we are not investment bankers and we are not trying to obtain a maximum on our investments. If we were, we'd a long time ago sold the school lands. We are bureaucrats on this floor and anyone who thinks otherwise ought to be around here awhile. If we had of sold the school lands and invested the money and made 12 percent on a lot more than the 300 million bucks we'd probably have valued the school lands at. We have passed a budget bill for about \$2.8 billion dollars. Included in that budget, buried in that budget, hidden away, cached, many other adjectives I could use to describe it, are projects for about every single area of this state, most of which, if they did not exist, would have no serious adverse impact upon the state. You could probably take \$100 million out of there, \$3 million plus for the Attorney General to continue the fight with the State of Wyoming, which ought not to be encouraged. I could go on and on and on and on. This is a public purpose. We are attempting to provide some opportunity for an entity to continue to operate that has as a reason for existence a public purpose. I am not going to go through the details that Senator Wickersham and Senator Lamb have proposed for you as to why it is a good investment because of the reduced amount of expenditures that will be required for roads and bridges, et cetera. But there is a public purpose to be served here, and it is just as important for the people in that portion of the state to have access to certain facilities as it is for those of us who happen to live in the Platte Valley or in the southern part of the state. There comes a time when, for one reason or another, the private enterprise system does not provide the services that are necessary for a local entity to survive. And so we have the R & D fund, that we pump some money into that. We have a multitude of other proposals. I am being called on the carpet because I did not vote for LB 840, another property tax increase which will be utilized in the minds of some well-intentioned individuals to encourage local