

investment. There is going to be property tax money, in this instance, going for an investment and a private purpose. We talked about the \$3 million annually. I wish, Senator Robinson, that we were...I would prefer, I would absolutely prefer to take the money from the Ethanol Authority and use that \$3 million to get us going to the Hastings plant, Senator Smith won't agree with me, to buy the railroad. It would be a much more public purpose than it would be in the direction in which it is going. And, Senator Hall, if we are going to have a special session, that might not be a bad idea. Maybe we can make a deal on that. But the point is this, at one point or another, you have to balance those issues, and, yes, I understand, Senator Lamb is a very conservative type legislator. We wouldn't have a 2.8 billion dollar budget if it were left up to Senator Lamb. He happens to represent an area which is sparsely populated, very sparsely populated. They can't even provide bus service out that way, and we did provide a little money at one time for some buses, and I suppose that this...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...in some ways goes against Senator Lamb's principles. But the point is this, he recognizes, as does Senator Wickersham and others, that there is a public purpose there and that it is just as important for those of us who live in the Platte Valley and Lincoln and Omaha to have access to that area as it is for that area to have access to this part of the state. I believe it is a good investment but I am not voting for the bill or the return on the basis of it being a good investment. I am voting for it on the basis that it serves a public purpose, and that is the only reason why I would vote for it and I ask you to do also.

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

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. I was thinking with nostalgia when Senator Crosby was talking about her train rides to Omaha, and I have wonderful memories of train rides to Chicago and to Blair, Senator Robinson. I rode the train to Blair to see my grandmother quite often, but I'm not voting for the reconsideration of LB 783A for nostalgia sake. I am voting for the reconsideration and the bill because of the future, because rails are more efficient for those huge heavy loads of ore and grain and whatever else you can pile on them. And I think that if you scrap the railroad, we are then back to the