

were not able to testify on this aspect. I think that its in good context then to have the people being involved have some input into this aspect, and with that in mind, if we adopt these committee amendments, I think we should consider having a rehearing on this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Elmer. While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do sign LR 238. Okay, Senator Schmit, you are next. This is your third and final time to speak on the committee amendments.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, sometimes on this floor we engage in very acrimonious debate. Sometimes tempers flare. Many times feelings are hurt. Many times, in fact, divisions are created which do not heal for a long period of time. That is not good. But there is one situation on this floor which is much worse and that is the situation which exists this morning, where we have very few people paying attention to what is being debated. We have in a matter of a few days a bill which was formerly considered to be at least not a major item this year is suddenly projected to the floor. The bill is a total rewrite of the original green copy. It is no longer a FIFRA bill, it is today a groundwater management bill. Now, ladies and gentlemen, when I introduced the bill which created the Department of Environmental Control, we recognized, more than 20 years ago, that there would always be those entities of state government who would try to guard certain areas of territory, there would always be those entities who would try to build their own turf. That's understandable, that's the way government works. But if you're going to give Randy Wood and the Department of Environmental Control and the council responsibility for water quality, then the question comes to my mind as to who should be the lead agency. Now had I drafted this amendment, ladies and gentlemen, had I drafted this amendment which names the Department of Agriculture as the lead agency, my good friends who are concerned about the protection of the environment would be in the Rotunda, 10 abreast and 100 deep, protesting the Department of Agriculture being the lead agency. Number two, if there is a problem today in the State of Nebraska with the administration of the chemical program by the Environmental Protection Agency, which is the lead agency in this country for the protection of the environmental quality, then is it reasonable to assume that if you place the responsibility with we farmers that we are going to be more