

strict. Very frankly, I like it there, I like it with the Department of Agriculture. If I have influence with any agency of government, it would probably be with the Ag Department. I think Mr. Hutchens, as I have said publicly and privately and in writing, which is the most dangerous way, is the best Director of Agriculture we've had for a long time. I even think maybe my old friend, Pat, former friend Pat, might be one of the best assistant directors, maybe he's not even my former friend. But the facts are that I stand here today wondering what will happen, how long will it be before the lead agency is no longer the Department of Agriculture and will be switched to the Department of Environmental Control. I think probably not very long. And I think then I can hear my rural colleagues say we were outfoxed. Well, it won't be the first time. We can be outfoxed in a lot of other areas, whether it is environmental issues, tax issues, regulatory issues, that's easy to do. No one can stay on top of everything.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But I just suggest, ladies and gentlemen, that before this bill moves across the board, and it may be that you will adopt the amendment. But, if you do, remember, you're not amending the green copy, you are writing a new bill, a new proposal, a groundwater protection act. Now, if you want to take that authority away from DEC and place the principal responsibility with the Department of Agriculture, vote for the amendments. If you do not, then vote against them. Now if you want a FIFRA act, under the Department of Agriculture, then write the FIFRA act and place it with Mr. Hutchens in that department, and let them administer the regulation, the registration, the supervision of pesticides, rodenticides, fungicides, and insecticides which is what the FIFRA act was intended to do. The EPA, ladies and gentlemen, and one or two companies have made an end run around the system, and have attempted to panic this Legislature...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...for personal reasons.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Hefner, you're next.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I