

SENATOR SCHMIT: I am going to say once again, because if I do not say it, it is not going to be said. Too many of my colleagues have become involved in the process to the point where their vote is no longer a free vote. I was amazed to find that some of you came to me and said I would have liked to have supported X amendment or Y amendment but I had bought off on the fertilizer amendment and, therefore, I couldn't do it. I was amazed to find that some of you came to me and said we really have to straighten out that amendment on fertilizer, and it is a real problem, and if you continue this procedure, we are not going to get it done. Well, I didn't ask you to get involved in the tax on fertilizer. You made that decision yourself and I opposed it, and I am not adverse to trying to help you out. I helped out the 775 proponents but I didn't support the bill. But I was involved a little bit in what caused that problem. Senator Conway, always fast on his feet and quick with a whip, amended my amendment and no one on the floor caught it until it was adopted and on its way. In this instance, no one visited with me about taxing fertilizers. No one visited with me about whether it was proper to tax just nitrogen fertilizers or whether we should tax all fertilizers, if we should tax fertilizers, feed and chemicals. In fact, some of my livestock feeders said this is all right, doesn't hurt livestock men any, we don't buy much fertilizer. When do we get away from that kind of a philosophy? When do we get away from trying to look at how it impacts me directly as of today, and then make our decision upon that basis? We should enact statutes on this floor that reflect tax policy, not that benefit one group or another. It has been my experience that all too often we look at the numbers, and Senator Withem is going to give us some more, and he is going to say, look at how much worse it is going to be, and a whole bunch of my colleagues will go back home relieved because they are going to say look at this, if we'd put it all back on inventory, your tax...your state aid money would have declined even further and, therefore, how fortunate, how very fortunate you are that we were astute enough to take the best deal we could get, which is what we are giving you now. Well, ladies and gentlemen, the numbers are here. The numbers that I am interested in are these. How many rural people move from the farm to city? When that happens, what happens to the urban community? What happens to the infrastructure of that institution? How do we cope with that? How do we handle the schools, the public services, the streets, the roads, the parks? Right down to the Capitol everybody comes, need a little help,