

understanding, analysis, debate and only the recitation repeatedly made on the floor of which special interests have agreed to the proposal as if that is the only thing that matters anymore. Our so-called priority system designed to make everybody equal has made deliberation of the state insect on an equal par with deliberation of the state budget and sometimes we get less debate on the budget than we get on the insect. As always happens when a system goes sick, the very hallmarks of a deliberative body, such as extensive debate, examination, amendment and change, are viewed as obstructionist tactics in our new automated law-passing system. We proudly assert the number of bills passed each year on some defiant schedule rather than the quality of the legislation. I've tried to remember when and how this system developed and I'm as much to blame as anyone. As we carry more and more bills for one special interest group or another, we want to make sure they pass so we satisfy this lobbyist or that lobbyist who, individually, has become our personal friend. The special interest he or she is getting paid for suddenly becomes our special interest and sometimes we willingly sacrifice the deliberative body for the automated body so that a half a dozen or more special interest bills will march into law. We accept the consent calendar and we condemn someone like Senator Chambers or others when we offer too many amendments or bring back a bill for repeated consideration. We keep quiet when we should be speaking up because we don't want to offend one senator or another because of fear of retaliation. Henry Ford could not have done a better job of automating the law-making business than we, ourselves, have done over the past few years. I suggest, ladies and gentlemen, that even on this late day in the Legislature it's time not to think about automation but on the quality of the production. I sympathize with what Senator Byars has done.

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But I want to point out again and again and again that failure to act in certain areas makes the problems much greater in the years to come. Failure to accept the fact that we have an out-of-control monster in the cost of health care makes it impossible to provide health care eventually for anyone. I agree with Senator Nelson, should not take long to adopt this amendment. We should adopt it and proceed. I think I can support what Senator Byars is talking about. He and I usually agree on issues. I'm sure we will in the future but I would hope that you would adopt this amendment. Thank you very