

September 28, 1992 LB 11

to be any new people hired. I discovered last week, there's a hundred thousand square...there are proposals gone out to lease 100,000 square feet of new space for office workers during the month of August alone. It doesn't sound like a restricting government, does it? It sounds like we are expanding government. A hundred thousand square feet, nine hundred or a million thousand...nine hundred or a million dollars a year for new space at a time when we're overdrawn at the bank and the crop doesn't look very good. Ladies and gentlemen, I didn't support the MIRE program, not because I didn't like to, didn't want to, not because they didn't deserve it but because I knew we wouldn't fulfill it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: At the present time, ladies and gentlemen, I am not inclined to support the bill, because we, once again, made commitments which we are now withdrawing. Senator Landis brought up a good point. Have we reevaluated these programs? I think we need to reevaluate every program. When Senator Wesely and I suggested that perhaps since 775 appeared to be costing more than what we had expected, that we ought to take a look, very careful look at any new applications, there were some comments made that Senator Wesely was vilifying the program. That's not vilification, that's accountability. I think we need to account for all of these programs, find out if the return is what we intended it to be, but, most of all, we ought not to be talking about establishing any new programs which the next Legislature will embark upon. So, ladies and gentlemen, it's a matter of keeping your word. It's a matter of keeping your word. And I think we are going to be hard-pressed.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But, notwithstanding that, I think that this Legislature, before we leave here, will have to make some very definite cuts and no more shell games.

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

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members, I would like to ask Senator Moore, the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, a question if he will yield.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Moore.