

our priorities in the expenditure of our tax dollars and I once again urge the adoption of LR 14 that starts us down the road about talking about those priorities. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, you are recognized.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the resolution. I have done so on many similar occasions in the past 16 years and I think it is consistent with our good policy of attempting to provide some sort of sustenance and food for an impoverished nation or nations that we would, at this time when part of the world is in dire need, try to alleviate some of that problem by shipping food to some parts of the world. It is amazing to me that it has taken so long for the press of the world to recognize that millions of people are starving to death. I know that since I have spoken about this, specifically two years ago, when the infamous Payment-in-Kind program, which cost over \$20 billion, was about to become a reality, I said it was going to be our greatest boondoggle and it has certainly proven to be that. But at that time I suggested, and it was in writing, and it was quoted in the press, that the money ought better to be used to provide food for the starving peoples of the world. I compared it to the Marshall Plan in Europe after World War II and to the Russian relief program in Europe after World War I. Since I have been talking about this and since others have been talking about it, we have been told many times why it won't work to provide food to poverty stricken people. I have had a thousand reasons but it is a strange situation to me that whenever we talk about providing food to hungry people that political aspects come into play. But if there happened to be a brush-fire war in any part of the world, we can crank up our engines and we can be there in a matter of hours, and we can obliterate people. We can move in and do those things that we do in the name of freedom and free choice and all those sort of things, but when it comes to providing humanitarian aid, we are always prone to find some reason why we can't overrule some small dictator who prefers to see portions of his people die. And I think it is time that we recognize our leadership role in this world and do it in a positive manner and do it in a forceful manner and do it in a way that the world understands. And I would hope that when we do, if ever, provide this food to those impoverished nations, we don't just dump it on the