

a theoretical, historical and a logical basis...

PRESIDENT: Your time has elapsed.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...that the bills be referenced to the Public Works Committee. I ask that you join me in that action.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) May we have order in the Chamber, please. The Chair recognizes Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, I respectfully rise to urge the body, of course, to keep the bills in the Ag and Environment Committee where I believe personally that they should belong. I think Senator Schmit has hit upon a very important point that should be brought up and that is that there is no clear policy in referencing bills. One man, Jack Rodgers, basically looks at the bills and their chapters which they fall under in the statutes and attempts to reference those bills. Of course, it is up to the Referencing Committee to either follow those recommendations or to go on their own and, as they have done in this issue, send the bills to the committee that they thought should have those issues. Senator Schmit also brought up another point, that the Ag Committee traditionally has not looked at water issues. It was the Ag Committee from two years ago or a year ago that looked at the nitrogen-nitrate bills that went through the Ag Committee and came out on this floor and was discussed and eventually killed by this body. But also I'd like to make a point that the Ag Committee has studied water quality issues in the past. This summer, under the guidance of Senator Haberman, the Ag Committee held interim study hearings on this very issue of chemigation and they have studied other water quality issues during the interim period and I think that is important to recognize. So it is not that we are setting new ground here. The important point is that there is no real clear policy on where we are sending bills and where the cutoff line is as far as what affects agriculture and environment and what affects water legislation that goes to the Public Works Committee. Clearly, no other industry is going to be as affected by what is going to come out of this bill in chemigation than agriculture and the irrigators around the state. I can think of no two subjects going to be affected as greatly as farming and irrigating and environmental concerns and in the bill, if you have read the bill, all three, the NRDs, the