

April 9, 1980

LB 627

Senator Koch as Senator Johnson said, I bow gracefully, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Hearing no objection, so ordered.

CLERK: Senator Schmit now moves to amend the bill and those amendments are 1726 of the Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Members of the Legislature, I will not take much time either. I just want to point out once again the futility of the lid process. In Saunders County there are now eight precincts which have exceeded their lid limits. They can no longer pay their maintainer operator. They can no longer pay their gravel bills. They are at an impasse. We have, by virtue of our righteousness, limited the ability of local government to function in the manner which they deem best. We all know what happens if you don't maintain those graveled roads. It isn't very long until you need to regrade them. You will spend thousands of dollars to regrade where you could have spent hundreds of dollars to maintain them in the first place. We sit here and we debate and we discuss and we arbitrate over hundreds of millions of dollars and we can do it with a certain amount of impunity. But these small subdivisions have very little leeway, and the time will come when the entire lid process will fall down around our heads. I would hope that you would recognize that at some point in time there must be some kind of relief given to the various subdivisions. It is only a little sooner that we recognize the small subdivisions. The time will come eventually with all of the rest. This amendment provides that gravel is excused from the lid provisions and you all know that gravel is about the only expense we have in the townships, with the exception, as Senator Hefner has pointed out, the purchase of maintaining equipment. But the facts are that we have had excessive rain in the fall of last year and maybe subdivisions had to spend a lot of money they would not normally have spent. Now if you can say we are going to limit the expenses of the subdivisions but you are not going to limit the expense of the individual, because if roads are closed because you cannot travel them, the people who need to get from the country to Wahoo or some other town will find it necessary to travel a greater distance. I ask for the adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the motion is the adoption of the Schmit amendment. Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak....