

districts, things geared towards the public expenditure of funds for works. Water pollution bills have been generally referred to the Ag and Environment Committee and that is the history of this Legislature. It was not until the last two or three years that this Legislature as a body had addressed itself to pollution, to environmental questions as such, but since we have uranium mining bills having to do with water pollution have been sent to the Ag Committee. Underground storage tanks bills having to do with water pollution have been sent to the Ag Committee and one of the bills, one of the bills that Senator Schmit wants to rereference today, the nitrate bill, has been in the Ag Committee. The very same bill was in the Ag Committee last year. No objection was raised. It is a water pollution issue and that is the fact of the matter. An interim study was done on nitrates and water pollution. That study was done by the Ag Committee. When Senator Haberman was Chairman of that committee, they dealt with all sorts of water pollution issues and now it seems to me that there is an effort to take back into Public Works Committee some things that were outside of the purview of that committee from the very beginning. What is happening today I think is some illusion creating. Pollution bills have been in the Ag Committee. It is the Ag Committee and the Environment Committee and think about this for a minute. What are the important things to agriculture? Soil, water and sunshine. And what are the important things in the environment, that we are concerned about in the environment? Soil, water and sunshine, three basic elements. And what has happened in this Legislature? Nobody can deal with sunshine, right? That is kind of beyond what any of us can deal with, but soil over the years has been consolidated and condensed and centered in the Public Works Committee and water now, the argument is being made, all water should be consolidated and condensed and controlled by the Public Works Committee. If you believe in the integrity of the committee system, then give the Agriculture Committee something meaningful to deal with. The truth of the matter is that the Agriculture Committee over the years, over the last few years, has been stripped of most of its important functions. If soil and water are not crucial to agriculture, if soil and water are not the two most important things relating to environment, I don't know what are. So it seems to me that having a sense of balance and a sense of proportion and a sense of what pollution is and what environment means, that all those things indicate that the Ag Committee is the proper