

did not discuss with me his proposal. I really have a deep interest in the issue as you know, but I want it understood, I want it understood clearly, that so often, someone said once frequently we have a law of unintended consequences. The unintended consequence, Senator Beutler, as you well know, if the first two bills are rereferred, if they go back to the Ag Committee, that means, and I want all of you to remember this, and it is ironic as the...well it is very ironic, that my good friends, I should have brought my seed corn caps down for Senator Beutler and some of my good friends because all of a sudden they become the protectors of agriculture. Now I want to tell you there isn't anyone in this body that won't tell you that the person who stood on this floor and defended agriculture from the proposed bills of some of my good friends from time to time more vigorously than anyone else was Senator Schmit. Now all of a sudden I have this deep and abiding interest in the Agriculture Committee by some of my urban friends and I think what strange bedfellows I have. I could have used them a thousand times in the last six years, a hundred times. Once or twice would have been critical, very rarely. But I want to say this that what you do here today, as Senator DeCamp has said, will have consequences far beyond the referencing of these three bills. I agree with Senator Johnson. The three bills will receive a fair hearing in either committee. I'm not worried about that. What I am saying is you are deciding the policy of this Legislature. Now if you want to put the bills in the Ag and Environment Committee, that is your decision, but there will be a thousand times in the next ten years when urban legislators will stand on this floor and say, water belongs to all of us. The cities have a deep and abiding interest. The farmer doesn't own the land. The heaven and hell theory doesn't prevail. You need to remember that we have an interest. We have the right to protect it. I've heard the argument a thousand times all of a sudden. If I had ever suggested that a bill that dealt with water quality were to go to the Public Works Committee, my good friend Senator Beutler would have been squealed like a hog with his nose caught under a gate and we'd still be at it, righteously indignant, prevailing upon all the press and everybody else to correct a right and unjust a wrong. It doesn't make any sense that all of a sudden, because the chairman of the committee changes, that we'd change where the bills go. As Senator Lamb has said, if you want to change the rules you do it in the normal manner. There isn't any member of this