

Committee, Senator Beutler said, and then I guess it was news...Senator Beutler, I'd like you also to correct me if I am wrong...it came as news to Senator Beutler this morning that 463 was on the agenda with these other two bills? Is that correct, Senator Beutler?

SENATOR BEUTLER: It came as news to me yesterday when I saw...or whenever it was printed in the Journal. That was the first time I knew that my bill was the subject of a rereferencing motion.

SENATOR HIGGINS: But it had previously been referenced to Agriculture?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, two years ago it was referenced to Agriculture. This year it was referenced again to Agriculture and the Agriculture Committee had done an interim study on it also.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you. Senator Schmit. (inaudible)...what did Dr. Rodgers say?

SENATOR SCHMIT: First, Senator Higgins, I would like to point out that I believe the announcement was made in the Journal the tenth day so it has been several days since the proposal was made in the Journal, so it didn't just sneak up on anyone. Secondly, Dr. Rodgers said when we were discussing the bill in the committee yesterday, he said, I assume that this Executive Board has made a policy decision and that this type of bill will now go to Public Works and probably...excuse me, to the Ag and Environment Committee. There has always been, as I indicated earlier, a disagreement. I have never had a great deal of personal pride in those bills. I have always had and I still do have confidence that the bills will be dealt with fairly. Sometimes it may be beneficial to have two committees hear a bill with slightly differing impact. You get a different impact, a different approach. We're discussing a number of those bills now, but the basic issue of groundwater quality about which I am protective has always been determined by the Public Works Committee. Senator Beutler is protesting because his bill last year went to the Ag Committee.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Schmit, I don't want you to take up my five minutes because I want to be fair in this question.