

are making a policy change which violates the rule, which violates the precedent, and which changes the subject we are discussing here today from Public Works, from Public Works to Ag. It is ironic that there are people here today who represent cities who would argue they should go to the Ag Committee. I want to say that in all honesty ask yourselves if this proposal had been made three years ago when I was Chairman of the Ag and Environment Committee, what do you think would have been the result? We don't even need to answer that. I won't embarrass you by polling you. You know what would be the result. They would have remained with Public Works. Now if there are those, and I hope that this isn't true...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...there are those who do not have confidence that I, as Chairman of the Committee, or that the members of the committee would not give the bills a fair hearing, then I should not have been elected Chairman of Public Works. The record does not back that up. The record proves that I have been a fair chairman, not an arbitrary one. The bills that I have had assigned to any committee have always had a fair hearing. Many times in fact I have sent bills to the floor with which I did not personally agree because I felt that broad public interest necessitated them. I understand raw power. I have been on the receiving end of it. From time to time I'm sure we've all done it. If that is what you want to resort to in this body and you can get the votes, then that is a new rule which I do not think will serve the body well. Principle, tradition, subject ought to be those issues which decide where the bills go.

PRESIDENT: Your time has expired.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I ask that you will send the bills back to Public Works Committee where they properly belong.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question before the house is, shall LB 227 and LB 284 be rereferred from the Committee on Agriculture and Environment to the Committee on Public Works? All those in favor of the rereferral vote aye, opposed vote no. The question is on the rereferral of LBs 227 and 284 from Ag to Public Works. Please record your vote. 25 votes required. Have you all voted? Have you all