

public hearing. Now the Department of Aeronautics has decided that with respect to nonjet fuel, which is like car fuel, like regular gas, it will leave the gas tax at a nickel a gallon, but it will eliminate the credit. It says that in doing that it is not scalping any major taxpayers. It says that the primary users of the nonjet fuel are the noncommercial airplanes, you know the Piper Cubs and the little biplanes, and all the little things that fly in general aviation. These folk never apply for the credit anyhow. It's only been the jet airplanes that have applied for the credit. So the Department of Aeronautics tells the Revenue Committee that if we simply adopt this bill we will have gotten rid of an archaic tax and credit system, we will have provided a little more money for the Department of Aeronautics. It intends to use that money, incidentally, to go out and do some...put some filler in cracks in airport runways. And life will go on, and it will be basically a pretty good thing. Now the Revenue Committee thought this was a pretty innocuous bill and voted it on the floor with no dissenting votes. That is my recollection on it. I hope, with that explanation, you will also move this bill to Select File with no dissenting votes.

PRESIDENT: Chair recognizes Senator Schmit. May we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.) Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Vard, relax a little bit. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I always get apprehensive about Senator Johnson and his revenue measures. But here we go. I just want to say this, I do support the bill. I think that Senator Johnson has explained the bill very well and, having been a member of the General Aviation Committee for more than 35 years, I can say that most of the individuals in that area do not apply for the refund. The Department of Aeronautics has maintained an excellent operation and certainly has provided yeoman service across the state. There was a time, last year, when we discussed using this kind of a mechanism, Senator Carsten and myself and Senator Warner, to perhaps acquire a few more dollars of revenue so that we could purchase a decent aircraft for use by the Governor. I think some of my good friends here didn't think it was worthwhile. But along about the time of