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committee. I share with Senator Rod Johnson his concern about what appears to be a downgrading of the Committee on Agriculture. I can tell you very honestly, having been that committee's chairman for 12 years, that the number of bills that have been assigned to Agriculture have continually decreased for several reasons. First of all when I first came here there wasn't any area that was assigned to environment. I introduced a bill which created the Department of Environmental Control and in 1971 that responsibility was added to Agriculture. In my opinion, for the same reasons given by Senator Rod Johnson, I don't know how many times on this floor then in the last dozen or 15 years I have heard people stand up and say environment is too important to be relegated to a narrow based committee like Agriculture. Well, Rod, I fought them off year after year, and I have to say that. But I was not successful in withstanding the efforts of those who said water is also too important. It concerns all of us. All of us have a very vital interest in the quality and quantity of water, therefore, it should go to a committee that is not dominated by agricultural persons. Now I'm a little paranoid, Senator Rupp, and I think you can understand that. When I became chairman of Public Works the issue of water quality then seemed to be more aligned with environmental issues and Senator Johnson and others argued eloquently in that regard. Last year some bills were assigned to Ag and Environment that had historically, for 27 years that I researched it, been assigned to Public Works. It is kind of interesting that over the years we've been told on this floor the soil and the water are public interest issues, broad interest, a broad prospective is represented on the Public Works Committee, therefore, that committee should hear those bills. So when the proposal was offered to send the water contamination bills, underground water contamination bills to Agriculture some of my good friends and colleagues who had historically not been strongly in support of agriculture had their opportunity to strike a blow for agriculture and take a little bit of a swipe at Senator Schmit at the same time, and how could you better justify that vote in your own conscience and go back to your people and say well we did what was right.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Interestingly, now we have a bill this year which says we want to create just a single natural resource