

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think that probably the motion to revive the bill is much ado about very little because there would not be enough money involved in the whole process to buy very many acres of land, even at this reduced price that we are experiencing today. Number two, I agree with Senator Vickers. It doesn't make any difference if a bill hasn't been raised from the Banking Committee. It does not mean that it should not at some time. But I would like to just say also that if you take this fund and begin to use it to purchase farmland, I think you are going in the wrong direction. I recall a number of times I supported the sale of school land. I think it would have been a wise thing to have done back at the time when Sandhill land was selling extremely high. There's never been a fair method of distribution of those funds as far as I'm concerned and I don't have any school lands in my district to speak of. I just think that more than anything the impact of the bill will be minimal, it is not going to be a major market. But the direction is wrong. We are going back into the land business by government. The State of Nebraska is the largest landowner in the state today, I believe. Although they've done a reasonably good job of management in recent years, I can recall in times past when they did not do so. It is kind of interesting also that they were some of the prime developers of Sandhill land. They developed a lot of it at one time. So I'm kind of interested in the philosophy, I guess, that says we are going to move back in that direction. I just think we ought to let it lie and proceed. We have some other bills, some of them carry my name, which I think are far more generous toward solving the problem, Senator Johnson, than this bill. Certainly we look forward to your support on those worthwhile measures knowing of your deep interest. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President, I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: There are other speakers asked for. I do see five hands. The question has been called for. I see five hands. The question is, shall the debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Motion is shall the question cease being debated. Question has been called.