

SENATOR SIECK: Yes, I'll speak a little on the committee (sic) amendment. The Maple Creek Watershed had a plan to fund 100 percent in order to step up the program. Now this was carried on with the help of the federal government just as a pilot project. Now this did help, there is no question about it. You'll get more contributors to get something done if you are going to get 100 percent cost share because these things do cost money at...in the immediate stage. But I've always had the feeling that conservation pays, that once you get it established, give me five years and it will pay for itself. But the initial is going to cost you money. You're going to lose some money, and that is the reason for the cost share. But I'm just assured that conservation pays. The only place that I've had some problems is with the federal government and the cost share program that they've had with the ASC, every time that program comes across the board the conservation person gets punished. He does not get his full crop acres, as Senator Schmit very well spoke to you about. I can agree with that. And I've been angry every time that thing comes across. At the present time it is the same thing, but yet I'm such a strong believer in it and believe in that type of farming and I've done well. I've been hurt, but I've still been successful. So I can still say that it has proved out that it is a good thing. Now whether we want to go to 90 percent, I again will express myself as Senator Rod Johnson did, it is up to the body. But the money is going to be limited. And I do feel that the natural resource districts themselves, in the areas where they have a serious problem, will contribute some of their own funds to help the program along, and the bill does allow that to happen. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Schmit, would you like to close on your amendment, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Members, I want to say that once the conservation practice has been installed and instilled on the farm that is not the end of the expense to the individual farmer. The expense to the individual farmer continues. It is more difficult to operate with this kind of equipment to change your farming practices. If you seed grass waterways, it means you can no longer use atrazine as a weed inhibitor. There are many other practices which you must employ to protect that soil and to protect that