

PRESIDENT: Is there anything further on the bill, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: Mr. President, yes, there is. Mr. President, Senator Schmit has the next motion on the bill. Senator Schmit would move to return LB 3 to Select File for a specific amendment. Senator Schmit's amendment is on page 232 of the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, are you here? Senator Schmit, your amendment is up for discussion. If you are around, please come in and speak to the issue. Senator Schmit will be here momentarily. Pass it. Withdraw the amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Marsh would move to return the bill for a specific amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, whether we like it or not two-thirds of our state's population is in the eastern third of our state. Iowa has a higher rate and will continue to have a higher rate, by two cents, than the State of Nebraska after LB 3 is passed. South Dakota has the same rate. If you are talking about dollar figures, the bulk of our state paying taxes is in the eastern third of our state, not on the Wyoming border, or the Colorado border. If there are illegal cigarettes, and I grant you that there are, that is not the issue we are addressing here today. We are addressing the financial situation of our state. Where do you want the additional millions of dollars of cuts to come if you do not support LB 3? Will it be in mental retardation services? Will it be in mental health? Will it be in funding for persons who have medical problems? Where do you want those additional millions of dollars of cuts to come? We must have a balanced budget. We need LB 3 as part of the total package and we need it today. I do not wish to be called back for a third special session this year. I don't think there is a single person in this body who wishes to delay our departure today, and to be responsible we need to have all parts of the package as a total package in place. It is the responsible part of being a state senator. You are not a senator only for your legislative district. You are state senators. We have a responsibility for all of our state's health. And financial health is mandated by our