

that we have, in fact, reduced the amount by that much. Now there are other areas where you might make exchanges and I want to discuss some of those later on also. But what I am trying to point out is that I can see no reason, nor can Senator DeCamp see any reason, why we should leave this money in the budget. There are going to be some other opportunities, I understand there is an amendment on the mentally retarded and there are some other opportunities. I'm not trying to destroy the thing. What I'm trying to say is that if you leave in 90,000 net, for example, in the budget, it makes it that much more difficult to look realistically at the rest of the proposals. It is like money you have in your checking account that you can't spend and don't need when on the other hand you can't pay your light bill. I would suggest that we take a good look at this and I think it is what I call responsible kind of budgeting. It is not going to cripple LB 835. That bill has its own virtues and problems. I will not debate that at this time. There isn't any way in the world that we will need any of this money for the enforcement of LB 835, or the implementation of it, given the normal method in which the judiciary works. So we've got this money, no reason to leave it in there. It will build up and it will mean that starting next year you start with a little higher base. I don't think that's right and I think we ought to, since we are trying to wring every ounce of fat out of this budget we can, I think we ought to do so and do it in this manner. Ask that you support the amendment.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you. Senator Smith, please, on the Schmit amendment.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would just like to say that when this was introduced the other day I did vote against it because I thought that in some way it might serve to cripple the bill which I believe is a responsible bill. I think it is something that is going to be very important for the future of the State of Nebraska and for continuing service for the rural areas. I know there is a difference of opinion on that. I just want to say that I am changing my vote because I do believe that we do need all the resources we can gather right now and that money would not be necessary for the bill. At this point it's in the courts and the determination is being made about the constitutionality of that bill and for this reason I am changing my vote today and I am going to support this amendment. And I think that that's something that I just wanted to make clear to the body. Thank you.