

February 21, 1975

SENATOR SAVAGE: Chair recognizes Senator Mahoney.

SENATOR MAHONEY: Senator Schmit maybe you have the answer to this. What is the amount of money that will be spent, I didn't gather that, over the next six years?

SENATOR SCHMIT: The proposal will reach almost \$5 million, I believe, over the next 12 years.

SENATOR MAHONEY: That would be about how much each year?

SENATOR SCHMIT: It would average probably less than a half million dollars annually.

SENATOR SAVAGE: Senator Marvel.

SENATOR MARVEL: Could I ask Senator Schmit a question?

SENATOR SAVAGE: Do you yield Senator Schmit?

SENATOR MARVEL: I seem to be the one who gets up here on all these items, but if somebody doesn't get up and we don't start adding these up, we don't know where we're going to be at the end of this session. I respectfully ask the question as to why this particular amount? We've had a Conservation and Survey Division at the University of Nebraska for years. We've discussed this for years. They put in their requests, which I think the record will show we usually go along with. Could you help me understand why, at this time, we accelerate the program and why the \$350,000 this year, why the \$465,000 next year? Is there any magic figure involved? That's what I'm trying to understand now.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Marvel. The reason for the acceleration again was given in the committee statement. At the rate we are going the soil surveys will be completed by about the year 2000. Now there are persons in this body who think that we need to enact land use legislation this year. If we are going to know anything about the proper uses of land then we need to know more about the types of soil. It was determined, and again it was a ballpark type figure that perhaps the addition of about 15 soil scientists would accelerate the program to the point that we could expect completion of the soil survey by approximately 1985. We could have stepped it up more rapidly, or we could have stretched it out. That's a matter of decision by Senator Carsten and Senator Burbach. The committee felt that they had decided on sort of an average figure. The projects can be completed, as has been done in the past, at a much slower rate. Frankly, when we try to coordinate the various programs it's an impossibility to do so unless you know more about the types of soil. I don't know whether we are too high, or whether we are too low, Senator Marvel. We could put it off altogether if we wanted to. If you would choose to and if this body would choose to do so you would find very little objection from the rural people, but you're going to find strenuous objection from us then when you come in with the various comprehensive land use proposals because I for one will not endorse any proposal in regard to land use unless I know more about the soil survey.