

February 18, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator George Syas.

SENATOR SYAS: Now I understand that Senator Kime is going to close after me.

PRESIDENT: That is correct.

SENATOR SYAS: All right. First let me say, the fence came into this argument and someone made a big deal about how much it would cost to fence this off. Well, certainly, but you don't have to fence it off. You don't have to take advantage of the program. There is nothing in this compelling a landowner to take advantage of this program. In some cases, if he wanted to take advantage of the program, he would have to fence it off, that is right. Let's call it as it is. Don't bring in some darn thing to tell me you have to fence it off. Sure you do, if you take advantage of the program. There is no compulsion for you to take advantage of the program. Sometimes these arguments get pretty silly. Let the farmer decide it. I have confidence in the farmer or the landowner. If he doesn't want in the program, good. If he does, okay. Let him decide it. Now, Senator Kime, brings up and he says up here by the Norden dam there is a lot of trees and it is not very valuable land but it is going to be used for cabins and, therefore, it is valuable land. If it is valuable land, you shouldn't make the statement it is not valuable, then valuable. Maybe the assessor better take another look at it, if it is that valuable, but let's face it. He says there might be some cabins on it. Senator, if you read the constitutional amendment, if they put cabins on it, it is used for profit. Please, I wish somebody, some people have trouble I know in this Legislature understanding what I think is simple English. Now Senator Dworak was right, and Senator Bereuter and Mahoney in bringing out points. Senator Dworak, of course, said no one is being forced in this which is true. I say to Senator Kime again no one is forced to take advantage of the program and a lot of them won't because it isn't going to be, probably, enough so they are not going to bother with it. Like any other program, there is a lot of people, the fact is, in some important programs like the food tax refund, a lot of people don't even take advantage of that. Now if somebody in western Nebraska thinks a bulldozer, he has never seen a bulldozer, to Senator Nichol, he is not here, if he hasn't seen a bulldozer dozing this shelter belts and things like that out, he is not in the right part of the state. I'd like to have him come with me and he would see it. Now I am not questioning, and I want to emphasize this, I am not questioning that the farmer doesn't have the right to bulldoze this out because he wants the valuable land. I don't blame him. I am not criticizing him at all but it is happening and I am just trying to make it so that it is possible that he might think twice and say, oh, well, I will just let it go and will keep it there. But I think if I had some valuable land, personally, that some scrub trees were handicapping my farmer operation or I could