

March 8, 1974

and there presently is a million and a half dollars in the fund for small watershed development, and of course this fund now, this extra million dollars that Senator Kremer is asking for could be spent on more projects than the small watershed program. And of course with the Small Watershed Program you have to buy land then you develop the pond to hold water back from going down the rivers, the flood control. And this of course keeps the water from running down into the rivers and overflooding some of the cities. This is what the small watershed program is. And so I just wanted to report that the Budget Committee did consider this, and that this was the decision they made is to go with the Governor on his recommendations.

PRESIDENT: I'm going to break in here for a personal privilege. Dr. Ralph Thorpe, Lincoln, 18 students Clare McPhee School, north balcony. Senator Luedtke's district. Stand up please. Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. As Senator Kremer indicated, this is a sizeable amount, but it is not nearly enough, as far as I'm concerned. Here is an area in Nebraska on natural resources, the preservation, thereof. The containment of water, the loss of our water where a million acre feet of water flow into the State of Nebraska and seven million acre feet leave Nebraska. This is high time that we are recognizing this expenditure of funds to do those things which are so extremely important. Senator Kremer gave you some figures about the decline of the grain that we now have and the need of continued production. The loss of the power etc. It is high time that we recognize that this amendment be adopted. Personally I wish that under LB975 we would have had this amount of money and probably even tripled. So we could start forward and do the things that are so vitally necessary before some of the other states, through Federal legislation, will be taking the water that is so vitally necessary for this state. I whole heartedly support this amendment. And I hope that Senator Kremer is a little more affectual with this amendment than I was in the previous amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly. Now I wish to call to the attention of the Legislature that there seven more to speak. We will not complete this amendment this morning. Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and members of the body. A question of Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Senator Kremer, these NRD's are about a year old, and we just passed 975, and we funded it so we could get the bookkeeping system up and get things squared around. How in the dickens would they spend a million dollars in one year. Are they prepared to handle this kind of money?

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Kelly, this money will be available to many more people than just the Natural Resource District. And I call your attention to LB975 itself, and I forget exactly what section of the bill it is in, but it provides that any sub-division of government including cities and counties, and who ever may be dealing in the development of land and water may use these resources. Now in answer to..in direct answer to your question how the NRD is set up. LB 975 makes this money available only to the commission and the NRD would have to make a