

SENATOR C. CARSTEN: Mr. President, members of the legislature, I would like to ask Senator Kremer a question or two if I might.

SENATOR KREMER: Yes sir.

SENATOR C. CARSTEN: Senator Kremer, my first question is that this million dollars and of course it is not in this you are a...a..you have set the date down another year, I understand now, is this money appropriated too the state department, the NRD commission and...who will have the handling and the distribution of this million dollars and by what circumstances will it be distributed? Can you answer that for me please?

SENATOR KREMER: LB975 provides that it shall be at the disposal of the natural resources

(end belt #9)

(start belt #10)

commission, but the act only under the council and the direction of the advisory committee, and I named the advisory committee that will largely determine where and how these funds shall be expended. Anyone that wishes to use any of this fund makes an application to the Natural Resources Commission. This then is related to the advisory committee, who reviews it according to or with respect to 975. It makes a recommendation, and the funds are extended and expanded by the Natural Resources Commission, it can be in the form of a loan or a direct grant. It depends upon what the project is and if it is a loan, there are provisions made as to how it is paid back again.

SEANTOR CARSTEN: Senator Kremer, my understanding is that part of the reasoning for this request was the deletion of the program from the federal government. There has been some reinstatement of funds through another program not reap any more but another program. The intent is that Nebraska provides itself some of these funds that could be used for water and soil conservation rather than rely on a federal level for so much of it. Is this correct? Am I...is my understanding correct on this?

SENATOR KREMER: Partly so at least. I would have to answer yes, if you want a direct answer, however, your aware that the NRD and some other subdivision of government now can tax themselves at the rate of one mil and they are using these monies now for some of the smaller projects like terracing and the building of the smaller ponds and something of that nature. But now we are going to have to talk about some of the larger structures that a will have to be built. I have lying here on my desk this morning a letter that is addressed to the Omaha District Engineer, the Corp of Engineers, and relates to the possibility of flooding that may take place along the Platte River again this year. Now this has been true for four years. What has happened? We have been backing water up and backing it up for the last number of years until all of the dams including the ones in Nebraska and those in Wyoming are full and we have no way at all of controlling flooding, because these dams are built by the bill and the waters in back of the dams are used only for irrigation. There is no room there for flood control, so what Nebraska is going to have to do and I'll say more about this in my closing is going to have to do is to