

April 8, 1974

they might not do this. I'm saying they could. And do you want to give that board this authority. And I don't think you can anyway because it's unconstitutional. And besides, the state doesn't have to put out money for this purpose. The state has in the past, had contracts with lease holders. The lease holders have irrigation wells on the land, and then irrigated the land, and then the state has said that we shall depreciate those irrigation wells out so much a year, and so when your lease expires, then a certain percentage of that will be paid for or it shall all go to the state. So the state does not have to put this money out in order to develop the land. But I want to say one more thing. If the state goes out and digs a lot of irrigation wells, and have a lot of center pivot system, the state is going to have mechanics for out there, to take care of the wells, to take care of the motors, to take care of the systems, the irrigation systems. You want state mechanics to go out all over the state to do this kind of work? I spoke to one irrigation farmer, and he said I don't want the state to do that for me because it would be too late. I'd never get out there, the corn would dry up first. So, I feel that we should not accept this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis, then Stull.

SENATOR RICHARD LEWIS: Mr. President, I'd have to support Senator Whitney in his arguments. I think that we are talking about a trust here, and not about funds that we can disburse in this way, or disburse in this way. I think that we have a obligation to this trust which is held for the school children of Nebraska. I don't think that we have any practical application here. I think he explained it very carefully, when the state in order to administer a program like this would have to have a complete staff. I think it would be much more practical if they would enter into some type of a contractual arrangement with the lessee and give credits on the rental or...

(End Belt #2A)

(Start Belt #3)

any type of an arrangement that would be legal or could be worked out. But I don't think that we should set up a slush fund here, administered by an appointive body and to do something that is not at all practical. I certainly do not support this type of a move.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stull.

SENATOR STULL: I don't care to speak on the amendment, but I do want to speak on the bill when you get to it.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Stull passing. We are speaking only on the DeCamp amendment. Now 894.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President, and fellow members. I get a little bit tired of hearing, Senator DeCamp criticizing Senator Whitney's expertise in this particular field, or any other field. How much, I'd like to ask Senator DeCamp, how much land did you farmed in your life time.