

February 15, 1979

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the people in my district are sick to death of these additional ad valorem taxes. We have told the county you can levy 14.28 mills and no more and now the NRDs are proceeding. We said you should be able to get by with a quarter of a mill on these special districts. I have not seen the accounting of the costs but I am a son of a gun if I want to see the NRDs proceed to enlarge these assessments with no accounting. Where is the proof that we need to increase the NRD power to levy by almost 75%? Once again, the state is going to move to mandate to the citizens of this state that their local county operations, their local district operations are inadequate to meet their own needs. I would suggest to you that if the NRDs wish to order their priorities, they are spending more money outside their original concept of drainage and water control than they are spending in it. We are building lakes. We are going to manage lakes. We are planting trees. We are going to manage forests and I, for one, will oppose on this floor every attempt of the NRD to ask for additional monies at a time when our citizens are screaming about their present tax levies until I see some kind of justification and need for that increase in money. Three-quarters of a mill doesn't seem like much and next year three-quarters of another mill or even maybe later this year. It was my understanding they were going to ask for three mills this year instead of one. Now if you want to go home and tell your people, yes, I just increased the taxing authority of one of the subdivisions of government by 75%, so be it. That is your problem. I, for one, will not agree with this and will offer an amendment to strike that increase in mill. I'd almost like to take the quarter out, but in deference to previous actions on the part of this body, I will leave it but I most certainly will not accept a three-quarter increase in the power of the NRDs to levy taxes against people in local areas, most of whom have no idea in the world what is becoming of that money. We are building tennis courts. We are providing lighting. We are doing everything in the world. We are mixed up with Game and Parks and I say to you that this is a bureaucracy that is headed one place only and that is up. I, for one, will oppose any additional financing.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE PRESIDING

PRESIDENT: At this point, the Chair would like to introduce some guests of Senator Hoagland and the other Omaha Senators, some twelve Experimental International Living students in Omaha from Sao Paulo, Brazil with Mrs. Burt Whedon and Mrs. Thomas Begley from Omaha. They are over here under the North balcony. Would they stand, just stand and be recognized. Stand up, please. Welcome to the students