

Upper Republican NRD at the present time has, in the control area, a valuation of about ninety-four million dollars. This isn't a very great valuation at the present time, but if you will check those counties that are outlined...Chase, Dundee and Perkins, you will find that all of those counties are going to experience substantial reappraisal. As Senator DeCamp has pointed out, this will result in at least, and I say at least, a forty to fifty percent increase in the valuation. I don't know what kind of money they're going to need in that area, but the twenty-five hundredth of a mill in 1979 should raise about \$22,500 according to their estimation. I know that that does not sound like a very great amount of money for water conservation purposes, but I want to call attention to the fact that this control area is a part of another area which can levy up to one mill. I know that a number of Natural Resource Districts at this present time have already invested funds in local banks that they have collected from the taxpayers for the purpose of performing projects, and these funds, because they were not needed, were invested in local banks. Now I suggest that if we continue to allow the appropriation of funds in excess of actual determined needs, we are going to encourage before long projects which are not needed themselves. We're going to encourage the spending of money just because it is there. I really have not found one Natural Resource District manager who has come to me and said, we can't do this project because we do not have the funds. We cannot...we cannot actually solve the problem in the Upper Republican, the Little Blue or the Upper Big Blue because we're short of money. I know there are some people who would like to have more money. So would this Legislature. So would the cities. So would the counties. But they are limited. They're limited for good reason. The limits are placed there by this Legislature. And I want to caution you if you will read the balance of the bill, that the Director has substantial authority with very little regulation to greatly expand the control area farther than you might need because of the impacted area due to a water problem. This, in itself, will result in additional funds being available to the control area. I think we are making a very serious mistake. I think we are making a serious mistake with much of the bill, because we are expanding the authority tremendously, and we have not seen the performance that we should have seen in the past from the Natural Resource Districts in general. I sympathize greatly with those areas where water is a concern, but I want to caution again that many of these areas might be in difficulty because of the fact that in the past they have pumped water without concern for their neighbors, and so all of a sudden we find ourselves and some of those very small areas may find themselves in the position of being able to limit adjoining areas from the development