

March 9, 1979

LB 359

\$500,000 dissipated among individual farmers across the State of Nebraska can be effective. That amount of money will grow, it will grow to a point where it will threaten the development fund and it will serve to the detriment of the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman. Is Senator Haberman on the floor? Did Senator Haberman excuse himself or where is he? The only two that were on the speaking schedule until we come to the next motion were the two that I designated so we would like to give Senator Haberman a chance to speak if he wants to. Motion on the desk. We will proceed.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Marsh moves to indefinitely postpone LB 359.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am sorry to have to be the one who puts this motion on. I appreciate the fact that Senator Schmit thinks he is doing what needs to be done. I have some additional information which the Legislature may be interested in hearing in relation to LB 359. I was not here when the discussion was made on this bill previously this week but it was my understanding that it was indicated that the Governor wants to combine the appropriation. That is not correct. I have talked with the Governor's office this morning. I have also talked with Dale Williamson this morning. The Governor does not want to combine the two funds as is evidenced on page 51, line 17 to 22 of his budget bill. The two programs have entirely different purposes and cannot be combined simply by repealing one or the other. Conservation act is aimed at small on farm conservation practices. Payments are made directly to the landowners. On the other hand, development fund is aimed at projects which are at least of regional benefit and which local taxing entities cannot afford because of the magnitude. Payments can only be made to political subdivisions or state agencies from this fund. The repeal of water conservation act by the adoption of LB 359 would simply eliminate state funding for basic conservation practices. I say they would not, and repeat, could not be funded from the development fund. This is a quote from Dale Williamson. Neither commission nor NRDS receive any funds whatsoever for administration of the water conservation act. Commission administers both the development fund and the water conservation act. The advisory board which was created to assist in establishing