

March 9, 1979

LB 359

all I have to say but I sure hope that you kill the bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I, for one, need a considerable amount more information concerning this bill before I could vote either to kill the bill or to hold onto it. I would like to ask Senator Schmit a few questions, if he would yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, will you respond?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Someplace in your presentation you mentioned three funds, the water development fund, the water conservation fund and the watershed fund. I am assuming there are several members of the Legislature do not know the definition of these funds. Would you take some time and explain them to us please and you may use all of my time you wish?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Rumery. As I said earlier, the development fund was established by this Legislature a number of years ago because of the concern that was expressed from many quarters that there needed to be state funds made available to the Natural Resource Districts to assist in those projects that were beyond the capability of the local Natural Resource District. As I pointed out, and I am only familiar with a few of them because of the fact that I am not on top of the area that has spent a lot of the money, but in my own district, the Rawhide Creek project at a \$1,115,000 is obviously beyond the capability of the Lower Platte North for construction. Yet it was deemed advisable by the Board of Directors of the Lower Platte North Natural Resource District that since the City of Fremont which is in that area had some threat from flood from that area that there would be some benefits to the City of Fremont if that project were constructed and so they did request from the development fund this amount of money and it was approved. Now the problem that concerns me is this, there have only been at this point \$45,000 expended on the Rawhide Creek project. They expect to expend \$309,000 in the fiscal year '79, another \$760,000 in the fiscal year, 1980. If we do not adequately fund the development fund, and at the present time there is not enough money in that fund to complete this project, then the Lower Platte North is going to be apparently forced to pay for that project