

March 9, 1979

LB 359

maybe some of us won't be here but some of us will, we are going to have to appropriate money for a development fund,...

PRESIDENT: Time is up on Senator Rumery's time.

SENATOR SCHMIT:a conservation fund and a watershed fund.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp. I will go on to Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, and in particular, Senator Schmit, Senator Schmit, I know and realize how very involved you have been in the area of conservation and what great contributions you have made to the State of Nebraska in that area and I have a great deal of respect for the work that you have done for this state in this area, but in this one particular instance, Senator Schmit, I must disagree with you. I would hope that we would adopt or vote favorably on Senator Marsh's motion to indefinitely postpone LB 359. A good number of Natural Resource Districts are spending large portions of the one mill general taxation authority they have now for resource development as I understand and this is insufficient. I think there are good reasons to have projects which are large, that use public lands, and I think there are many good reasons to have smaller projects that are on private lands as is possible by using the resources development fund. We have heard great controversy over the last few years, not only in Nebraska with respect to the Norden Dam Project, but with respect to any large water structure. Environmental groups are generally opposed to larger structures. Many of these structures run into very serious problems from funding as well as legal fights that develop from people who do not want large structures, change in the environment and dams across rivers and so forth, and yet we know that the storage of water, capturing water in Nebraska is good for the state for several reasons. One very significant reason is the effect that storing this water in either large or small facilities has upon recharge of underground water supply and so I think most of us concur, and I am sure that Senator Schmit agrees, that small water projects are beneficial to the public, to the people of the State of Nebraska, both for their conservation purposes as well as the effects that these small water projects will have on recharging the underground water supply in various locations in the State of Nebraska. Now Senator Marsh and others have already pointed out that if we enact LB 359 we will not be able to use state dollars to continue to develop small water projects on private