

May 2, 1979

LB 11

Everything that Senator Kahle was the best argument I could have for adopting this bill. Senator Kahle doesn't want the federal government to come in. Senator Kahle doesn't want the feds to come in and tell us what we're going to do on our own land, how we're going to work with our water, what we're going to do within the confines of our own fences. He doesn't want the federal government to come in and tell us what to do. Well it's a lot like that commercial on television for the oil filter. You know, you can pay me now or you can pay me later, and that's what is going to happen. We can adopt this funding measure, and that's really all this is is a funding measure because this act has been in existence for four years with no problems. It's been in existence for four years and it's been funded with general fund tax dollars, I think about \$55,000 last year, and all this bill is is an alternative to those dollars. At some point if the contributions are up high enough, we can get rid of that general funding and rely solely on contributions. But if we don't adequately fund and administer this program ourselves on a state and local level, just as sure as we're all here this morning, the federal government is going to step in and they are going to tell us exactly what we can do and when we can do it. The water resource people have been involved in this, and if you will look at your committee statement they weren't there to oppose the bill at the committee hearing, simply because it had no effect on their programs and they knew it. They only got involved after LB 401 was killed, and that's the real heart of the matter. It's not going to affect water resources, but there has been a lot of misinformation spread about the bill. We have been told, you have been told at meetings and various places around town and the clandestine meetings, the secret meetings, you've been told this is mandatory. Well it's not mandatory. It's purely voluntary. This takes tax dollars. It doesn't take tax dollars. It sets up a new commission, a new agency, a new layer of beauracracy. It does none of those things. The bill has been in existence. The law has been in existence. We haven't had any problems with it. We have been told that well we're going to have matching dollars, we're going to have over a million dollars in funds to reach havoc with business in the state, and stop progress. Well that's another falsehood spread by those in the water resource association, one individual. In the first place there is only eight million dollars allocated by the federal government for these programs. Last year Nebraska's share was about twenty-five thousand, and only