

March 13, 1980

LB 423

representatives from the Natural Resource Districts are members of that body recognizing municipalities through the Director of MUD being the utility person that would be looking after and putting input into the decisions of the commission from the utility standpoint in a metropolitan or city area. Now this could be labeled a fight. This could be labeled districts. This could be labeled all of these things and a case made for that, but this is a bill that Senator Moylan used to bring forth so that Omaha would be represented as though they were a river basin of which they are not a river basin. Most of the people in the City of Omaha elect the people that serve on the Papio Natural Resources District and that river basin, that NRD, sends one of the people to represent that river basin and its problems on the Natural Resources Commission and to take back from the commission information to that NRD and the system works beautifully throughout the whole system, and should it be that we need to have not only the Director of Metropolitan Utilities District on there but another person out of the municipality of Omaha, there should be some reason for it that would provide that needed input, that needed help to protect the natural resources of the state, not protect the City of Omaha. Let's hear from the introducer what it is that will be brought to protect the natural resources and add to the effectiveness of the commission from this added board member. Herein lies what we want to decide. The proper amendment of which I would make to this bill, if it gets to Select File, would be to make the Metropolitan Utilities District Director a permanent member by virtue of being the director of the Metropolitan Utilities District and this would ensure the biggest user of drinking water in the State of Nebraska would be a part permanently of the Natural Resources Commission. The reason that the director has always been a member is because we need the expertise that we could get from that person and making it permanent would ensure that we would always have that expertise on that board. I oppose LB 423 in its present form.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members, I have consistently opposed this proposition and I continue to do so and I would like to briefly tell you why. It has been said already that the Papio now has three members on the Commission, and if the time ever comes when the one appointed by the Governor does not come from an area like that, then I will have a look and probably change my mind on giving the Papio another commissioner. Now let's look at the operation of