

all, it concerns me in the inconsistency as to the nature of the project, whether the project is municipal in nature or whether the project is rural in nature. So I think that this does require some looking into. Now if all the funds and all the money were coming strictly out of rural areas, then that would be another story but I think when we look at the evaluation of property and see who really pays for these projects, I have some serious questions as to whether we are spreading the benefits equally or even attempting to spread the benefits equally or whether we do have everybody paying and only a few benefiting.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I find myself caught between two rivals, the Omaha delegation and rural Senators, on this issue and I guess as a Lincoln Senator I see myself in somewhat of an objective position since there is no real benefit to Lincoln out of this change. I think Senator Dworak has pointed out some of the discussions, and Senator Lewis, that we have had in the Appropriations Committee, that millions of dollars that we are now pouring into these programs through this agency and the importance we have attached to this agency in the water planning process has developed a greater urban interest in this program than existed before. I would say sitting on the Appropriations Committee looking at the representation on this commission and looking at the way they have distributed funds between urban projects and rural projects and looking at some of the concerns that they have not paid attention to that have been expressed in this Legislature that they have chosen not to put in their studies, I can only think that adding one more person from an urban area might get us a little more objective point of view, but until the representation is turned around, I, as one member of the Appropriations Committee would not have the confidence to give the funds to this agency that they request. I do not think that they are adequately distributing those funds. I do not think that they are properly planning for the use of those funds and I think that their water planning process is close to being a fiasco at this point. Now I would think that perhaps if there was a little more openness to try to get a little more balanced representation on this board that we could work cooperatively on dealing with some of the water problems but this kind of parochialism that says we are going to save all the water problems for the rural areas I think in the long run, and maybe not in the long run but I think already this session, will cost the rural areas. When we get to