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LB 1002

fund. So there is no purpose to be served by a discretionary fund. The allocation that we have given to the water conservation fund in my opinion can be used even though the Natural Resource Commission will not or does not collect figures on the total need, but it seems obvious that NRDs, numerous NRDs are using all of the allocation that they have been given. The Appropriations Committee felt that the type of project that the water conservation fund supports is important. Increasing the amount of money to that fund we felt should be a legislative decision and it is interesting to note that we have passed legislation just this year expanding the use of this. There was a bill passed for uses out in ranchland in western Nebraska to expand some of the uses for the water conservation fund. So I'd expect that next year there would be even further demand on this fund. I think that the decision of the Appropriations Committee was wise. I think it was well thought out. The discretionary fund is really a phony discretionary fund. There is no intent to use any discretion. It all is supposed to go to the resource development fund and I think that in the Appropriations Committee we wanted to see a little more balance in priorities between conservation projects and recreation projects.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer. Senator Kremer and then Senator Schmit.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the Sieck amendment. I would like to respond to Senator Dworak's comments when he asked me a question. I did not want to take up his time. Now it is true that the money that was turned back was used by some of the Natural Resource Districts that could use more funding in the way of conservation but what does that leave those NRDs that could not use it. They just didn't have the funds. I mean they could not use the funds but they could have used them in many cases in the development fund. Now, secondly, why have the NRDs, so to speak, as Senator Fowler just alluded to and I am sure he is right, that the NRDs have leaned heavily toward using the discretionary money for development. The simple answer is that is where it is going to do the most good. Now it is yet to be proven that we are going to get very much groundwater recharge through the building of terraces or catch ponds or farm ponds but it has been demonstrated time and again that when a larger project is built we do get a recharge of underground water that I don't think we can emphasize too much the necessity of it.