

March 19, 1980

LB 1002

sticks, hopefully in the right place, to channel our resources to effective water management. So I urge you, the body, to repeal the Lewis amendment, to repeal the Schmit amendment and get on with the important business of moving this bill across the floor.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President and members of the body, I would like to comment on Senator Dworak's comments on we need to complete the study. As I recall and I have been with this program many many years, that study is going higher and higher. We have had study after study after study but we seem not to accomplish anything. When we come into a problem then we ask for another study. In the Upper Blue Basin we have a study laying on the shelf there for at least twenty years. We haven't built a project yet. Why? Because we haven't got the money. We just don't get the money to build them and then the people back off. They complain about, you know, you are going to take my land and so on. Well then it gets stopped. I wonder what these studies are really going to do? Are we going to build projects but we do need money to build the projects and as far as Senator Lewis' amendment, I can recall when the Lower Platte South or the Salt Valley Project was initiated. We had a lot of opposition. Today we have no opposition and who did it help? The City of Lincoln. No question in my mind. It helped the City of Lincoln and we've got acres and acres of water impoundments. We have a tremendous amount of recreational facilities but what was the purpose of the dams? They were to stop the floods and we haven't had a flood. Look at the development that has come into the Lower Salt Flats. We have got a tremendous industrial development. Who did it help? It helped the City of Lincoln and yet you don't want to put any money into this fund. So I am going to support Senator Schmit's amendment and realizing that Senator Lewis' is for recreation and what these projects bring and it will be in the urban area where they are, where they will protect the city especially in the Papio watershed. I know that Papio Creek runs right through Omaha. If they are going to have protection they are going to need some projects to stop the floods through the City of Omaha. So I am going to endorse Senator Schmit's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, a question or two of Senator