

April 10, 1981

LB 243

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, so to your knowledge there are no projects in this state that have begun and upon which we would spend, be wasting money if the bill were passed?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well first of all, the answer is no. I won't take any more of your time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you. The comment that I would like to make really basically is this. I don't think this is a situation where we want to tie down the NRDs too closely across the state to one particular figure. I think this is a good area, a good example where we need to have a lot of local flexibility and the reason I say this relates in part, in my mind, to the tax sources that are being used to fund these different projects. Now I come from the City of Lincoln, obviously. The City of Lincoln itself probably contributes somewhere in the neighborhood of 75% of all the money that goes into our NRD. So the interest, primarily, of the City of Lincoln or the people of the City of Lincoln is in recreation. It is curious that we are taxing the people in the cities directly for natural resource developments which to a large extent do not benefit them. Now obviously it benefits them to some extent but what I am saying, that I guess the bottom line is this. In Douglas County, in Lancaster County, in the urban areas the primary interest is recreation but we are going along and helping with projects that are primarily rural in orientation in many cases but I think a fair return for that is from time to time going ahead with projects that do have a very substantial recreational value. There is much justification for that in areas like Lancaster County...

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute left, Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...Douglas County, where the urban people are contributing the predominance of the money and, therefore, I think they should get some return out of that themselves. I think that local control is important here and that if the compensation problems that Senator Schmit is talking about are the main problems, then perhaps what we should be doing is directing our attention to a solution that looks at the compensation formula and adjusting that so that, in fact, the landowners do get fair compensation for their land rather than trying to operate through modification of the eminent domain clause. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment I have is from Senator Schmit and the amendment is on page 1337 of the Journal. (Read.)