

anymore. There are some people who really feel that way. But as long as we don't bring in new industry in the State of Nebraska our only basic resource is agriculture. If you allow that soil to deteriorate, the water run away, we are going to destroy the economic base of this state more rapidly than any other manner. The amendment I have here calls for a \$1.5 million, a paltry sum when viewed over the 77,000 square miles of this state. I am not criticizing the Appropriations Committee. I know that they have really tried hard to meet their responsibilities. They are trying even now to find some method whereby they can pare their expenditures down to the level of our income, so we don't have to have that major increase in taxes. But the facts are that soil and water conservation, for all practical purposes, is not being recognized this year, wasn't last year, the previous year. The Public Works Committee will hold hearings this summer. We are going to look for some new and some innovative methods of raising funds. I feel very strongly that water resources can be managed and utilized for the benefit of all Nebraskans. I'm going to attempt to try to find out if we can market a small portion of that 8 million acre feet of water that flows out of the state every year and in so doing bring some money into this state that can be used for water resource development. I hope that you people will come to those hearings, will voice your opinion, express your concerns, your support or your objection because I can see that, unless we find some other method of bringing funds to this body, manna does not fall from heaven, hasn't for 2,000 years. I do not expect it to occur again. If it did fall over Nebraska I would suspect that it would be channeled to some other area than water development. So I am warning you now that next year I hope to come back to this body with a proposal that will raise some funds for water development. I'm not suggesting that those funds be earmarked because I know how some of you feel about that, but I am saying that we are going to try to find, I and the other members of the committee, some method of backing up the empty promises we have made over the years with dollars. I do not begrudge, I hold no animosity toward anyone because of the financial restraints we are under this year. But I think that I, as the Chairman of the Public Works Committee, must meet my responsibility and try to find some funding for that very important project. It is kind of interesting you know that it was an erosion, along the roadside ditch, that caused my automobile to turn over when I struck it the other day. Maybe we could get some of those