

whoever is on the Appropriations Committee next year that the obligation is there for these projects to continue. And the Platte River planning, a \$100,000, there has been roughly a million dollars of federal funds expended on that to date, about \$250,000 from one of the...a central NRD, and there is some necessity for additional \$100,000 to complete that study in its entirety. And, as I recall, there was about five or six smaller projects included in the 100,000. It is possible, however, that those could be deferred till next year, but in doing so we nevertheless have the obligation. But the 200,000 in the small watershed is particularly necessary even to continue those projects under way there now and I would urge that you would override, single out this particular conservation activity to be singled out for an override.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I would just like to say that I find myself in a very unique position. I am not going to vote to override on this issue and I will tell you why. Mr. Williamson was in my office and said, we can continue all of the projects that are on board if you vote to override all of those...if you vote with the Governor, bluntly, number one. Number two, I think that for a state which prides itself upon soil and water conservation to have removed from the budget virtually all the funds that have anything to do with soil and water conservation is an abdication of responsibility. When we passed LB 1106 several years ago I was assured by the Chief Executive of this state, members of this body, members of the public, members of the press, that we would have unlimited support to build a natural resources fund to a minimum of \$50 million within a few short years. At the present time, those funds are virtually zero, if not zero. The public does not deserve to be misled in this manner. Editorials in behalf of soil and water conservation are fine. They put no money in the budget. Rhetoric, political speeches, speeches on this floor, in the same manner are a disservice to the public. I have been here long enough to understand why the \$200,000 is in the budget and we all know why it is there. I don't need to explain it to you. I think that at this point in time what you have done is to have locked yourself by a series of steps into a position where you are going to have to vote for sales tax or income tax. There are going to be a whole bunch of you explaining why you have done it and how necessary it was when, in fact, it was not necessary. If you can totally eviscerate the natural resources fund, the development fund, if you can do