

and enhance the natural resources of this state so we created a Water Management Fund. Well, we didn't quite make the 20 million. In fact, we didn't make 2 million. We did put \$200,000 in there, and now under the bill we're talking about, we have caused that \$200,000 to evaporate to zero and it is being used to fund some other activities of the Natural Resources Commission. But there is no money left in the Natural Resources Fund, in the Water Management Fund. I'm going to tell you this, I have said it before. Each and every one of us has something of a particular interest. I'm looking at Senator Remmers and he has a particular interest in the state colleges as do many of the rest of us. I can go one by one by one and I can name off every one of those. If it is going to become a game of cover your tail, then the gate is wide open, the gate is wide open because as the Chairman of the Public Works Committee I have an obligation and a responsibility to try to at least call to your attention that there is a responsibility on the part of this state to protect the natural resources of the state. I am getting darned tired of reading editorials about how important the soil and the water is and this afternoon there is going to be a little conference, I'm going to be there. Some very well-intentioned individuals have gathered together a particular groundwater coalition, but you can't do it unless you put some resources into it and so I am going to tell you this. As I said this morning, if we begin to shave here and shave there on these cuts, then I think it is opening the gate for every one of us to protect our own area of interest. I do not in any way want to minimize the importance of the University of Nebraska. I think my association with that institution is greater than any of yours. Seven of my ten children have graduated from it. Nine have been students there and I'm an alumnus and I like the institution, but I'll tell you one thing, if you're going to try to get some cuts, you've got to go where the money is at. You can't rob natural resources anymore. That's gone. You can't rob many areas. We have taken it all. If you go duck hunting, you've got to go where the ducks are at. That's University, Social Services. We tried Roads and got beat up on that. But the point I want to make is this, and I have said it before, we're spending \$200 million a year on a roads program and we aren't even spending one single dime, one single dime on the Water Management Fund. I think there is an inequity there. Don't minimize the importance of roads, don't minimize the importance of the University, don't minimize any of those.