

May 14, 1975

Engineers are not going to look at this and say, well maybe they'll do it in '76.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Syas, at the present time do the plans of the Game Commission have, for development of these project sites, include the acquisition of land substantially in addition to that amount which is required for the actual dam site? Do you know if that's true or not?

SENATOR SYAS: I think I can answer your question. I'd like to have you run it by me again.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Do the plans that have been proposed by the Game Commission for the acquisition of land include the acquisition of land substantially greater than the amount that is required for the actual dam site?

SENATOR SYAS: Yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Are those acres then to be used for recreation and recreation only?

SENATOR SYAS: Right.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is it then the plan of the Game Commission to develop this entire area as a recreational site within the area that's surrounding Omaha? Is that right?

SENATOR SYAS: The land that they acquire, yes. I would like to answer it a little more fully because ... Here's what happens. The federal government, when they purchase land for the dam site, they purchased the land to the high-water mark. They don't go any further. That's if the dam is full and a flood ... this land is all under water. The federal government goes that far. Then if you want additional land to make it feasible you would purchase so many feet back of the highwater mark so you'll always have dry land. That's what we're talking about here. That's what makes the projects feasible on the cost ratio. Bear in mind, Senator, that this is a very important situation in this way. If the state does not participate, and the private homeowner and the SID's build up to the water line then they get a private lake-front property that no one can use but themselves. The federal government has spent all the millions of dollars to give them a private home on the lake. They will have the land right up to the high-water mark and no one can come in there. Consequently, they still have a dam on the lake ... I mean a house on the lake.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Syas, if that occurs then who sells that property to the homeowner? Does the private owner, the farmer sell it?

SENATOR SYAS: Absolutely. I know ... well I'm not going to go too far on this. That will happen. I happen to know that it will happen.