

February 26, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I'm sorry that this got into an argument of the issues. I want to talk on it and I don't want to on the merits or demerits of the Papio Flood Control and Recreational Project. As of now, and in the foreseeable future, there is no project, there is no place to spend money. The first major dam, the major part of this money was going to be used for and was discussed last year was site 20, near highway 53-70 and I-80, southwest of Omaha. The land is now owned by the Corps of Engineers and is now being offered to lease to surrounding farmers on a five year lease. No way is this money going to be needed on that project during that time. The total project has been totally changed, re-evaluated and new proposals made by the Corps of Engineers. Changed to agree that they must have reauthorization, and there is an article in this morning's World Herald, Col. Harry F. Muma, Missouri River Division Engineer in Omaha said in affect that a Congressional reauthorization of the project is needed. This article is from the World Herald bureau in Washington D. C. So, I simply support Senator Clark from a business standpoint, that the money is tied up, it is obligated and can be used certainly in other areas in the State of Nebraska when we are trying to hold down the tax rates and trying to satisfy needs in various departments and agencies and peoples in Nebraska. There is simply no need for the funds. Believe me, if anybody wants to check it out, any way that they want to, there are two sites that are finished, the City of Omaha is the sponsor in a recreational development and as of now those are the only two sites that anybody knows will ever be built. So, I support Senator Clark's move to simply strike this section as being not a controversial issue, as being unneeded appropriation of funds at this time and at least for one year and probably for more. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator F. Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, I would like to start by asking Senator Clark a few questions. Senator Clark, is this a precedent in terms of the budget committee to take out all funds that will be classified as what you call idle funds?

SENATOR CLARK: No, not that I know of.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Isn't there two million dollars, at least a million dollars in a water fund that we have established?

SENATOR CLARK: The way that I understand it at the present time Senator Lewis, this has to be reaffirmed by Congress in the first place and there is going to be a re-evaluation of the Papio project.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: No,

SENATOR CLARK: There is no way that they can spend the money this year. That is the only thing that I was trying to do.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: You missed my point. I believe that we have other funds where there are existing funds that will not