

February 2, 1979

LB 31

oppose the amendment. I guess my answer would have to be, no, I guess I wouldn't. I may oppose but not strenuously.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Any further discussion? Senator Schmit. The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, again it is another one of those bills with which none of us have general disagreement but I am concerned and I think, I have not had a chance to visit with Senator Kremer about the bill because of the impact that might occur and the distribution of the funds that might take place. Those funds are very much in demand and I would like to ask Senator Kremer a question if he would yield please.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Kremer, would you respond?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, I will.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Kremer, how many dollars worth of funds are we talking about here and how are they presently being dispersed?

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Schmit, you asked me a question I really can't answer. I don't know exactly how many dollars we are talking about when we are talking about the fund. Most of the small watershed activities in southeast Nebraska, we have very little of it in my area, I can't answer your question.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I see. Do you have any idea about the ratio of funds available to fund demand? Do you know anything about that?

SENATOR KREMER: There is a great demand for the funds. I do know that and I doubt if there are enough funds to meet the demand.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Who makes the decision as to how the funds are allocated, the Commission or someone else?

SENATOR KREMER: Of course the small watershed program is in the hands of the Natural Resource Commission and they do have a formula that they use. I think a request has to come to the Commission for approval. There has to be engineering. There has to be engineering work done on it and they disperse the funds under a certain formula that they have and I don't know what the formula is. I could have gone into a lot of that. I didn't because we are not