

February 15, 1979

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PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit for the second time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator DeCamp made most of the arguments that I was going to offer relative to the equalization procedure. I want to caution you that when that equalization does take place and it will take place before very long because the people are going to demand it, the courts are going to insist upon it, that the collection of revenue from those areas are going to increase tremendously. I am going to tell you something else that is going to happen, and when that happens, there is going to be a resurgence of interest on the parts of those farmers who have been taxed at a lower valuation rate that is going to be conveyed back to us in a manner when which we are not going to be able to misunderstand. Now there was discussion about the metering tax and there was discussion about a use tax. Do you know why we don't want to impose those? Because those are a direct tax that is very visible to people and they object to it, and very frankly, they object strenuously enough that they convey to us if we don't stop that, you are going to be getting replaced in office. Now the point I want to make in addition to that is this, that at the present time in all the fairness to my friends in the cities, they are paying a larger portion of the cost than we are in the rural areas, and as Senator DeCamp indicated, they are going to want a larger voice in what is done there and I am going to say something today that I don't even like to bring up because to me it is very frightening. At the same time, it is a realization of what is going to happen. And that is that some point in time some urban resident is going to say, look, we are putting all this money into the Natural Resource Districts. We don't have anything to say about it. And when that happens, maybe we should look at the manner in which the directors are elected. If that happened in the Lower Platte North, I believe that Fremont would have about sixteen directors. The rest would come from all that other vast area and I have confidence that those directors would administer the money as fairly as they know how that when they have that tremendous responsibility for the community of Fremont, that might not be in keeping with the way those of us in the rural areas would like to have it done. But when the time comes that the control of the Natural Resource Districts shifts, and that is what is going to happen, from rural to urban areas, the emphasis is going to be different and I wonder then if my good friends on the farm are going to be as interested in resource management as they are today. There are many other areas of responsibility