

and I had the copies of the statutes here a bit ago because there has been a lot of discussion relative to who has the responsibility for controlling the flooding of the Platte River and those communities adjacent to it. The law is clear insofar as I can read. It belongs to the Natural Resource Districts. They are concerned about it because of the cost. They know the tremendous cost that is associated with that kind of control, that when it comes to whether or not we should build dikes...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...or bicycle paths, the people of Fremont, of Valley, North Bend are going to be very emphatic and I think they are going to be emphatic in a manner we can't misunderstand and so I would caution you, caution you seriously, before you expand this authority that you think of the ramifications far beyond what you are doing here today, and I would hope that you would support the Murphy amendment and contain this levy at one-quarter of a mill rather than to expand it to one mill, which is a terrific expansion of taxing responsibility.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan speaking for the second time.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I hate to prolong this debate but I do think it is an important issue and there are a couple of points that need to be made. Senator DeCamp talked about property taxation system and said we should wait until we get the property tax system straight in the State of Nebraska. Well, Senator DeCamp, the State of Nebraska has been in business for 110 years and I wouldn't hold my breath if I were going to solve all the property tax problems in the state, and if we wait until those problems are solved, we are going to have some very serious water problems in this state. So I don't think that we can wait and I don't think that is necessarily a legitimate argument. Now Senator Keyes brought up a very important point, a point about can this money be used for purposes other than the control of underground water, and he talked specifically about dikes and he talked about transbasin diversion that might solve those problems and I would read to you from the language in the bill which says, "Such levy which shall be in addition to that authorized by section 2-3225 shall be utilized only for the cost of the administration of this act within such control area." So the additional mill levy authority that we are authorizing if we reject the Murphy amendment and pass this bill will authorize only those