

February 15, 1979

LB 26

of this very important bill.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, a question of Senator Kremer if he would answer it please.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, will you respond?

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Kremer, I have attempted to follow this debate very closely and the question that comes to my mind, since we are talking about an amount and providing these Natural Resource Districts with the capability to levy up to one mill when presently they have a quarter mill limitation, was there some justification at the time that the bill was heard in committee for trebling their capability in allowing them up to one mill which is three-quarters of a mill in excess of what they have at the present time?

SENATOR KREMER: Yes, sir, and as I stated before, Senator Stoney, the problem we have today, it may spread by tomorrow, I don't know, is in the Upper Republican. It is a rather small control area and the revenue that can be derived from the one-quarter of a mill simply will not allow them to monitor, to keep up, to adjust the measuring devices that they are going to have to use to appropriate water the way it now appears and they are going to have to appropriate water because of the serious depletion of their groundwater table, and if it keeps on like it is, they are going to be out. It is going to affect the economy of that area and have an indirect effect on the economy of the State of Nebraska. Now this is true in every area. We have got four hotspots in the State of Nebraska where we are depleting our groundwater system and it is a large area. Irrigation has meant so much to the economy of our state and continues, not only the countryside but also the cities, the villages, the town, our economy, the stabilization depends on what we are going to do. Now if they are going to monitor it with these devices, they are going to have to have the money to do it. They have got to keep them up. They have got to repair them. They have got to read them and all this thing. They do not have the money, and if we are going to adopt rules and regulations and cannot follow up, what good does it do to have a rule, and that is where the area of need is today. Senator DeCamp was right, that if we do bring the valuations up to a hundred percent, then no doubt we'd have