

I am convinced that the federal government will have to take the lead in fostering water conservation. While I do not believe we can impose upon the entire nation a new water conservation ethic in the short period of time, the federal government should use its influence and its program to bring about these needs of changes. Now this is what we're facing today. Now it's going to be absolutely impossible to carry out a responsibility unless you have the money to do it. We're either going to allow things to go on and apply the law of the jungle, and let everyone do as they think best, and when we hit a problem we'll just have to live with it. I've often said that it's my conviction that Nebraska is still ahead of the game, and we still have a little time...not much, but a little time to do what we ought to do, and if we don't do it we're going to face the consequences. I was informed that the Upper Republican today, under today's conditions with no more wells being drilled...no more being drilled, the best that they can do there in the way of allocation of water is about ten inches per year. They need more than that, and that in turn will probably provide for a depletion of another inch or inch and a half per year of water depletion, even at ten inches. Now in order to enforce this, if they have to, in order to enforce this if they have to, it's going to take some money to monitor the wells, to install the meters, to calibrate the meters, to monitor them, and to repair them when necessary. How can they do it without the money to do it? I ask your consideration to amend the DeCamp motion to reconsider for a 1/2 mili. I'm willing to compromise and go to 3/4, and I'm abiding by the wishes of the Upper Republican. There's where the problem is, and I'm trying to relate to you what I have been told are the problems that face them today on the present mill levy.

SENATOR LEWIS: We are now on the Kremer amendment to the Schmit amendment. The lights are on in this order and we do not know which way you want to speak, so I'm going to call on you in terms of the order in which you put it up and if you wish to speak to the Kremer amendment, please do so. Senator Schmit, do you wish to speak to the Kremer amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I do, Mr. Chairman. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I recognize the deep concern that Senator Kremer holds on the issue that's before us here today. I recognize also that there is a tremendous amount of interest in this issue across the State of Nebraska. I think that we must really take a long look at the entire bill to have the full realization of what this proposal before us is going to do. I want to call attention to your...to the fact that the