

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Schmit is opposing Senator Kremer's amendment and even opposes the DeCamp amendment because he thinks that's too much, and I'm on the other side, I'd almost oppose the Kremer amendment, because I think he's conceded too much already, but Senator Kremer is a compromiser in this particular case and so I will support Senator Kremer's compromise. Now Senator DeCamp has often talked about the four hundred percent increase in taxes and I know that Senator DeCamp's pencil slipped a little. It's actually a three hundred percent to one mill, and it's a two hundred percent to 3/4 mills, so it's not quite as drastic as Senator DeCamp indicated, and I know that he certainly would not want that misconception to continue. I think this is justified, and I think for many of the reasons that Senator Schmit raised. I think Senator Schmit gave us some very strong arguments as to why to support this increase. He talked about expanding the boundaries of a Natural Resource District and of a control area in a Natural Resource District beyond what they should be for property tax purposes. That's exactly what's going to happen if we do not approve this increase. And I'm thinking of areas in the Panhandle and my own county where if controls are instituted, they should be in a very small geographic area, and they're going to need a larger mill levy because of that reason. I don't think ranchers in the sandhills who have never irrigated and don't intend to irrigate...I don't think other people should necessarily be incorporated, perhaps the city of Alliance should not necessarily be incorporated into a control area simply because valuation is needed so that the controls can be funded. Controls should be drawn for the basic most purposes along areas where there are...for hydrological concerns and not for property tax concerns, except to conform to boundaries of taxing districts. So I object to Senator Schmit's arguments. I think we must accept the compromise as proposed by Senator Kremer. Thank you.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Question of Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR LEWIS: Senator DeCamp, will you yield?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MURPHY: Senator DeCamp, as an attorney of rather astute judgment...

SENATOR DeCAMP: Well, I wouldn't go that far, but go ahead.