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LB 359

SENATOR SCHMIT: This has been allocated toward various projects.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Do they have the bread yet?

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, they have not obligated themselves by signing the papers except that in the case of Rawhide Creek. We are beginning to build the Rawhide Creek project at a cost of \$1,115,000. They have only obligated \$355,000 but they have allocated from future appropriations the total of \$1,115,000. Now that amount is twice as much money as had been appropriated at this time.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Okay, well, this is what I am kind of concerned about. I am not sure any of us really know what is going on because we do have so many funds and so many different taxing methods on these things. Now don't get me wrong. NRDs are wonderful. They are a good creation if we handle them right, but anytime you handle something wrong or let it get out of control, it can do just as much harm as it can good. If Senator Chambers were to walk in here and ask us for something, twelve million or something for welfare programs or something, and then we found out that really he wasn't just asking, somebody had already gone out and obligated twenty-five million, why we would take him and you know what we'd do to him. But when we wave those magic words "water and natural resources", it seems we aren't allowed to really look at it very closely and what I am saying is all this does as I understand it is eliminate one of those various funding mechanisms. It says, hey, deal out of one pocket at least on this subject so we can know what is going on. So I suggest you not kill the bill and I suggest overall we all start learning a little bit more about NRDs.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I think there is a little confusion on this obligation of money. That is like, to give you a similar example, that is like saying that the state is obligated for all the requests that are made to this Legislature each year and we all know we have millions and millions and millions of dollars of requests but that does not obligate us. These funds, these requests, these projects that they approve, they cannot approve them unless there is money available to complete them and so I think that that is a very serious misleading situation in this argument. It is also my understanding that through the conservation fund and the enabling legislation allows the NRDs