

March 9, 1979

LB 359

oppose the motion to kill the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to on behalf of Senator Wesely introduce Senator L. K. Emry who formerly sat in that spot. L. K., will you stand up and be recognized? Senator Emry. Stand up and welcome, L. K. The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't care if the Natural Resource Districts want to get rid of Loran Schmit. I don't. He and I agree too often to have him replaced by somebody that wouldn't agree with me so often so I want to keep Loran Schmit in the Legislature and I am sure the people in his district will return him if he runs again, but at any rate, I think some things have been said that concern me and I have talked to Lee Orton with the Association of Resource Districts and I asked him specifically about the Rawhide Project, because I would think, Senator Schmit, that if they did overobligate themselves, and as you know perhaps from my discussions about technical community colleges a year ago, I am very concerned about obligations of funds in the future, and had that been done, I think it would have been very irresponsible and would have required a good deal of investigation. Mr. Orton tells me that with respect to the Rawhide Project that is a phased project consisting of three separate and distinct parts. The first was a \$45,000 appropriation for planning. The second, and that money has been expended and that phase is completed, the second is a \$300,000 expenditure for flood control. That has been approved. The contracts have been entered into. That money is available and that money will be spent. That is \$345,000. The second one is \$700,000 and that is money for work to be done in the future. That is a request that has been submitted. No contracts have been let. No obligations have been incurred because that money isn't available and so we, to the best of my knowledge, I know of no project, and perhaps I am not familiar enough with all the projects to know this, but I know of no project where they have entered into a contract when the funds are not available and I am sure that those contracts would be illegal because they cannot bind this Legislature or a future Legislature. But Mr. Orton assures me that they have not entered into contracts for projects when the funds are not available. Now they have had projects and applications submitted and those projects are approved but they are awaiting funding and so according to Mr. Orton they have not signed contracts binding themselves for projects where funding is not available and I think that is important, and believe me,