

March 12, 1979

LB 26

amended Schmit-Cullan amendment?

SENATOR COPE: Yes. Mr. President and members, a question of Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, sir.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Cullan, one part of their, I guess the amendment, does give me kind of some concern, and it's this, I'm afraid that most people feel that NRDs are rural, and it is not so, as we all know. But, when we have to have a vote of...a majority vote of people in the district, that includes urban and rural, and you know and I know the difficulty in taking a vote on any legislation that's going to increase taxes, could it be possible that our whole progress in water conservation, especially now in water short areas, could be voted down probably primarily by urban areas, and we would be just where we are now?

SENATOR CULLAN: Well, Senator Cope, I don't think that that's possible, and I wouldn't have concurred with these amendments. I see what you're saying and I can understand that, but we have to remember that they still...the NRD still has the authority to levy a full one mill, and they still have the authority to levy a quarter mill. This applies to the increase between a quarter and three-quarters, and I think...I think that that...the fact that they still have that other taxing authority means that they will...if they want and really need an additional increase, they will have to prove it to the people, and there's no doubt that it may be difficult for them to do that, but I would rather see them prove that than to have no increase at all.

SENATOR COPE: I guess the similarity of that is we've been trying to prove to the people for a good many years that four hundred dollars a month isn't sufficient for a legislator, and the public just do not see that, and I'm afraid that this could be the same thing, because you're not having a vote where the water short area is dealing directly, that is, we all know that urban areas suffer just as much as rural with a shortage of water, but it's very difficult to tell people living in towns and cities, getting that fact across to them when it means increasing taxes, and it seems to me that this is going to just freeze in the one and a quarter mills...the limit.

SENATOR CULLAN: Well it...Senator, the vote is in the control area, and there is no doubt that there would be a tremendous amount of publicity with the public meetings and the other procedures that are required to establish a control, so I would think that most people would be very aware of the problems,