

April 9, 1979

LB 593

original concept of building twenty dams from Washington to Douglas Counties. The project has been scrapped. It doesn't exist any more and, therefore, the money is totally unnecessary in our budget.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then the Game and Parks Commission cannot utilize the funds in any way under the present capabilities (Interruption)?

SENATOR GEORGE: You are correct. There is no way to use it because these were matching funds for recreational lands which would have come after some dams would have been built, but since the original program has been cancelled in Washington, you cannot match anything for recreation. It is just non existent.

SENATOR SCHMIT: And there is no chance that that will have new life breathed into it prior to January 1 of 1980?

SENATOR GEORGE: Most certainly not, this money has been around for six or seven years and it has never been touched. There is just no way to do it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator George. It is hard to believe that a million dollars could lie in rest and go unspent for that period of time but I guess, Senator George, I am going to support your motion in view of the fact that it looks to me if anyone needed it very badly they would be in there after it, and if the situation arises where it can be used in another year, we are only five or six or seven months away from that point and I think perhaps we could put the money back in at that time.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak, do you wish to speak on the motion?

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I still think it is a good idea not to take a positive action on this until we determine specifically what the status is. I have a phone call in now and I will try and get an answer to it as soon as I can, but as Senator Schmit pointed out, there is no chance that this money is going to be spent or Senator George has said there is no chance that this project will be made viable before the time the Appropriations Committee meets again. The fact that Senator George has indicated that certainly leads me to believe there is certainly no big rush to take a positive action one way or another on this until we find out specifically what our contractual obligations are on this particular thing. We