

March 19, 1980

LB 1002

SENATOR CLARK: Motion failed. Do you have another amendment?

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Schmit now moves to amend LB 1002. (Read Schmit amendment found on page 1308 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, Senator Johnson said there needs to be some justification for this. That will be the first time we have justified any expenditure since we left grasshoppers yesterday. We spent \$684,000,000 yesterday or moved it across the board and the only thing that demonstrated any concern was whether we should feed the grasshoppers or exterminate them and it was generally conceded that we couldn't wipe them out so we are going to live with them. Now the principal purpose of this amendment is to recognize, and I think the tone has been set here with the vote on the Sieck amendment, whether or not this Legislature is serious about its commitment to water. After the vote on this amendment, if this amendment prevails, then we can continue to talk about the sincerity of the Nebraska Legislature in regard to water development and its utilization. If this amendment fails, ladies and gentlemen, you just as well admit that it is all a bunch of farce and rhetoric and you don't really mean what you say. It is not going to make very much difference to me personally. You can vote against the amendment if you choose because the Platte Valley is going to have water under it a lot longer than most areas of the State of Nebraska and that happens to be where my land is at and you will all be high and dry a long time before Senator Kahle and myself and even Senator Sieck are in our area of the country, but if you really mean you want to put some money on the line and this is not that much money, ladies and gentlemen, then this is the place to do it. As Senator Kremer has pointed out there are more than \$12,000,000 worth of approved projects for the development fund at this time. As I said a little bit ago, we pushed two-thirds of a billion dollars worth of expenditures across the board yesterday and there are not five members of this Legislature that can explain where all that money went and that includes the members of the Budget Committee. I just want to say for once and for all, as I have said many times on this floor, the Budget Committee is a committee which works hard but it is the Revenue Committee which takes the lumps. The Budget Committee is a glamour committee because anyone can spend that money but the Revenue Committee has to raise the money and that is the tough one. You become awfully popular, ladies and gentlemen, when you hand out the funds and if you read