

March 19, 1980

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where the bear went through the rye and it is not going to be in my back yard because there are going to be plenty of you people here today who are going to plead and bleed and bellyache about water conservation who are not willing to spend one and a quarter cents per person, one and a quarter dollar per person on the development fund in addition to that which has been placed there, a total amount of two dollars per capita annually, not exactly a major contribution by any stretch of the imagination. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, you can argue about this bill for a long while. It contains a substantial amount of money. We can be critical if we will of the various Natural Resource Districts, their personnel, their practices, their ideas but you cannot be critical of the concept of water storage and you cannot be critical of the fact that it requires money to do it. The cost of this type of construction has increased by more than 100% in the last three years. I am in the process of doing something on my farm at the present time and I know what I am talking about but unless we expand that funding we are actually going backward. We are going backward, ladies and gentlemen. If we were to have taken the dollar figure that should have been attributed to all of the newsprint that has been exercised in extolling the virtues of water conservation and applied it to this fund, we would have done more good and there will be another editorial in a few days condemning the Legislature for failing to take significant action in the area of water conservation and that same newspaper won't even print the financial statement of the Natural Resource District at the legal rate provided by the State of Nebraska. So, ladies and gentlemen, you have your opportunity. You may make your commitment or you may reject the amendment but if you reject the amendment, you have abdicated your responsibility in the area of water conservation for this session of the Nebraska Legislature.

SPEAKER MARVEL PRESIDING

SPEAKER MARVEL: The first order of business is the Lewis amendment to the Schmit amendment. The Clerk will read the amendment.

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

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, this is to put in law, this

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