

March 19, 1980

LB 1002

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Powers, I am very glad to respond to your request. There are projects in my immediate area in the Lower Platte North and there are projects in the Lower Elkhorn that are definitely way behind schedule. There are a number of projects out west that are behind schedule. I believe Senator Kremer indicated there are \$12,000,000 worth of approved projects that are not funded at the present time and if you would take the \$1,850,000 that has been appropriated, take into account the rapid escalation that we have in cost, I think that you might just as well recognize that for all practical purposes, Senator Powers, we are going to do nothing, notwithstanding the concern expressed by Senator Koch about the lack of interest and the lack of adequate approach by Senator Schmit. I will place my record on the line along side of anyone else's in this area consistently for the last twelve years and I would be reluctant to say this at any other time but I want to say that the amount of money that the Budget Committee has appropriated is totally inadequate and it is totally out of context with the contribution that is expected from the private land-owners of this state.

SENATOR POWERS: Thank you, Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Powers, you have about a minute left.

SENATOR POWERS: This million dollars, this is an arbitrary... this is not an arbitrary. Let's take a million dollars and give them more money to play around with. This money would be applied to projects that are pending, that are being held back because of the lack of funding now. Is that true?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator Powers. Originally in LB 596 I believe of last year, we were led to believe that there would be about three and a half million dollars in the two funds, the conservation fund and the development fund. The amount of money that has been appropriated to the development fund is \$1,850,000, conservation a \$1,250,000. We have increased that appropriation substantially many times. We have not increased the development fund. I believe the two are not equally important and I think very frankly that the development fund needs more attention.

SENATOR POWERS: Thank you, Senator. In view of your comments, this city boy is going to have to back your amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, why don't you go ahead. There are several who want to speak.