

March 19, 1980

LB 1002

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak and then Senator Kremer and then Senator Sleck and then Senator Maresh, then Senator Warner.

SENATOR DWORAK: Well, Mr. President, colleagues, after twenty-five years of planning and water studies here in the last fifteen minutes we decide what is needed which is a \$2,000,000 appropriation to urban water projects. I wonder why we spent all that money for all those studies. It seems to me that there ought to be a solution that is a little bit more acceptable to this body than just throwing \$2,000,000 after the program. It seems to me that what we need to do is sit down and talk about instream values, water quality, metering, moratoriums, well spacing etc., etc., etc. It seems to me we need to focus in as to where we are going to put our scarce tax resources and just not throw \$2,000,000 into the barrel and say, hey, here is the solution. You vote for this or you vote against it and that is the legislative body's decision on water planning is ludicrous and I think we all know it. You know yesterday a lot of us lamented the fact that water bills were... or appropriation bills were going across this body without any discussion. Well after hearing the discussion, some of the proposals this afternoon, I'm not so sure that yesterday wasn't better. At least we were even. We weren't taking steps backward. So this particular Lewis amendment which amends the Schmit amendment, is not the right time and not the right place until we sit down and determine exactly what we need to do with the tax dollars we have available to us. Now to indicate that the Appropriations Committee has put no money into water is also an erroneous assumption because we have increased this expenditure. We have increased this fund over last year and we have increased it over the past three or four years. The Appropriations Committee has recognized the value of water. Why do we have the arguments, why do we have the discussions, why we can't get consensus as to whether it is the development fund or the resource fund is because we have not sat down and addressed the issues of water. We have had year after year of procrastination, year after year of lulling ourselves to sleep with the idea, with the concept that what we really need is another study and now we have finally reached the epitome of water studies. We have now got a study to study the studies. I think maybe that is as far as we can go and I think we have some very pertinent water legislation pending this year. It may not go as far as some want to go. It may go farther than others would like to go but at least we are going to sit down and look at it and talk about it and address the issue, so we are not sitting here in the dark, throwing the dart against the wall, hoping that it