

March 18, 1981

LR 26

in the process and Senator Kremer knows a lot more about this than I do and probably any of us, a 6 million dollar study to see if we couldn't run Missouri River water uphill three or four thousand feet to western Kansas, western Nebraska even but western Oklahoma and western Texas and here we have a chance to capture water, at least when it is at flood stage with an on river dam in the Narrows Project and capture that water that will run downhill and as Senator Vickers said, it will help recharge the underground water table and the only way it can possibly go is toward Nebraska. If we have the same effect that we have in the North Platte Valley, the irrigation that takes place from the Narrows Project will, at least part of it will find its way back into the South Platte River and probably help the flow all year round. The South Platte River is not like the North Platte. It does not have a steady flow. It is dry a lot of the times but it does have flood times and there have been several in the last number of years. Last spring we had at least three months when the river ran bankful coming from the South Platte generally. So you talk about billions and billions of dollars, you can't afford not to do this. It is just that simple. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of LR 26 and I want to tell you very emphatically I am for it for all the reasons that Senator Wesely said he is against it. I want to tell you very honestly that for a long time we have had people in this Legislature and in this state who have given lip service to doing something about water but every time you talk about doing something that costs money they run for cover. Senator Wesely referred to the ad in the World Herald and the Lincoln Journal. Ladies and gentlemen, this ad in the World Herald, if it is a political ad, I don't know how else you can categorize it if it has got a man's picture three times in there, and some of you wonder what Mr. Jaksha is running for and I really don't care, but the point is this. You buy a full page ad in the World Herald or the Lincoln Journal and you assail the Norden Dam with inaccuracies while at the same time on the editorial page you extoll the virtues of water conservation and the necessity and the need for doing something about water and I appreciate the editorial point of view but it seemed a little strange to me that we can expect anything positive to come out of a proposal where day after day after day we editorialize in support of water measures and then for thirty pieces of silver we allow an ad to be placed in our own newspaper which is not accurate, which does not reflect