

March 18, 1981

LR 26

the facts and which is designed to inflame people against a small group of persons who might benefit from the irrigation aspects of the Norden Dam. If we are ever going to do anything about water conservation we need to do it now. Senator Wesely refers to spreading the money across the State of Nebraska. Let me tell you this, Senator Wesely, you can build dams until hell freezes over but unless you have got water coming down the creek you are not going to save any water. You build the dams where the water is at and where the surplus flow is at. That happens to be on the South Platte in Colorado. It happens to be in the Norden Dam area around the Niobrara and a number of other places but you can dam up all the creeks around Bruno and Brainard and Bellwood and you are not going to stop much water because that is not where the water is at. I think it is time that you call a spade a spade and if we continue to insist upon ducking the issue, then, ladies and gentlemen, you just as well stop talking about water. A year ago Senator Kremer and I tried to add a couple hundred thousand dollars to the water development fund. It was negated, couldn't be done but the facts are that unless we are willing to do this sort of thing, that water is going to continue to flow unchecked down those rivers and into the Gulf and do no one any good. I support LR 26. I commend the Public Works Committee for its introduction. If Senator Wesely wants to take his name off of the resolution that is fine with me. I don't think it is going to make much difference. I think it is time that we also refute this sort of an accuracy. Mr. Jaksha is a fine concerted individual and he is entitled to his opinion but when he places something in the newspaper it ought to be factual. A little nonsense is, I guess, understood between politicians but I have been listening to this on the radio and I have been reading it in the newspaper for several days now. It does not impress me. I don't think it is going to impress the majority of Nebraskans and I think it is time to, if Mr. Jaksha wants to get embedded environmentalists who say we are going to stop any water, we are going to let every drop of water flow downhill into the ocean, then let it be that way but let him understand that we understand where he is coming from. I am sorry to be so worked up but I get a little fed up once in a while with the continual contradictions that go on in this place and I think that when it occurs inside this body or outside this body, it is up to us to call attention to it. I know someone is going to say, oh, the press must take the ad. If I tried to place an ad that contained inaccuracies I think they would challenge me on it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have ten seconds.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I think that Mr. Jaksha should have been challenged. I challenge him now and I know that some of the rest of you will do so also.